WOMEN'S CRICKET

Ansar move into final

SPORTS REPORTER

Ansar & VDP have moved into the final of the Women's Club Cup Tournament after beating BKSP by 48 runs in the first semifinal at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Ansar & VDP scored 229 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 40 overs. Chamely Khatun topscored with 67 while Lota Mondol scored 54. Tanzida Islam took three for 33.

In reply, BKSP were all out for 181 in 39.5 overs. Nuzhat Tasnia was the highest scorer for BKSP with 34 runs. Chamely Khatun was named man-of-the-match.

The second semifinal Between Mohammedan and Abahani takes place today at the at Gulshan Youth Club Ground.

Shoaib, Sania meet Indian envoy

PTI, Islamabad

Newly-wed star couple Sania Mirza and Shoaib Malik today met Indian High Commissioner Sharat Sabharwal, following which the Pakistani cricketer was granted one year visa exten-

During the brief meeting, the couple requested High Commissioner to extend the visa of Shoaib which was valid till June 24, officials said.

Shoaib's visa was later granted an extension of one year and includes cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Sania's mother Naseema Mirza accompanied the couple to the Indian mission. Sania had sought the meeting yesterday.

During the meeting Sabharwal wished them well and hoped they would have a "long and happy married life", Indian High Commission spokesman Siddharth Zutshi told PTI.

The Indian envoy, however, is not hosting any reception for the couple, the officials said.

The high-profile couple arrived in Pakistan yesterday to a frenzied reception, with the federal government according them the status of "state guests".

Karachi International Airport on Thursday.

Div I b'ball

Mamun caged 20 points to help

Rangers Club thrash Old DOHS

Club 44-9 in the Premier Bank

First Division Basketball League

at the Dhanmondi Basketball

tered a 62-50 victory over

Greg's Club after dominating

the first half 36-27. Nahid and

Harun scored 16 and 11 points

respectively for the winners

while Seti and Linkon scored 18

Flame Boys Club 40-38 after

leading the first half 28-16.

Nayan and Geff caged nine and

eight points respectively for Josephites while Julian and

Junaed scored 13 and 10 points

Stiaan van Zyl, a part-time

medium pacer, had the best

figures of 4 for 37 while Elgar

and van der Wath took two each.

Left-arm paceman Lonwabo

Tsotsobe and Philander also

BANGLADESH A: First

innings 346 all out (Nafees 45,

Shamsur 84, Junaed 1

Josephites Club defeated

Europa Youth Club regis-

Gymnasium yesterday.

and 11 for the losers.

from Flame Boys.

FROM PAGE 17

van Zyl 4-37).

Shamsur

at the fag end of the day.

picked up a wicket each.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SPORTS REPORTER

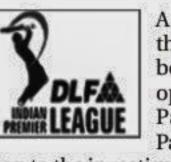


PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH.COM

Ansar players appeal for a stumping against a BKSP batswoman during their Women's Club Cup match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Parliamentary probe Div II cricket OUR CORRESPONDENT, of IPL demanded

CRICINFO, undated



A potentially significant day in the IPL controversy saga has begun on a stormy note as opposition MPs in the Indian Parliament demanding a Parliamentary probe, in addi-

tion to the investigations currently being carried out by government agencies, into the allegations that have been swirling around since the story broke a fortnight ago. The afternoon saw IPL CEO Sundar Raman at

the income-tax offices in Mumbai, where he was due to submit to income-tax officials documents relating to the ownership details of the eight original franchises. In the evening the league will host its 2010 tournament awards, where the BCCI's top officials are expected to be present. There were also reports that at some point on

Friday, Lalit Modi, the IPL commissioner, was to move court seeking a stay on the governing council meeting scheduled for Monday. Modi, though, told Cricinfo such reports were "rubbish"

In the lower house of Parliament, Opposition members sought a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), comprising MPs, to investigate the alleged irregularities in the league. In response the finance minister, Pranab Mukherjee, said a decision on it would be taken after "due diligence".

"In these matters everything has to be done with due deliberations. It cannot be instant

coffee. I have noted the suggestions of the honourable members and it will be communicated to the Prime Minister," Mukherjee said.

The matter was raised by the leader of the opposition, Sushma Swaraj, who alleged that the Government was protecting leaders from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and demanded that an investigation be ordered into the entire controversy. The NCP is headed by Sharad Pawar, the ICC's president-elect and federal agriculture minister; another leader is the aviation minister Praful Patel, whose daughter is an IPL employee and whose office forwarded a mail to former minister Shashi Tharoor containing information on franchise valuations.

"The Government may not conduct an impartial inquiry as they want to save their coalition. We need a JPC to investigate this," Swaraj said.

She also raised an issue reported in Friday's papers, where Patel's daughter allegedly used her father's clout to force Air India, the government-owned airline, to cancel a scheduled Delhi-Coimbatore flight and instead used the plane for a chartered flight to ferry IPL guests from Chandigarh to Chennai.

Swaraj was supported by other MPs including Janata Dal (United) leader Sharad Yadav, who said that ministers must be accountable for their actions, and Communist Party of India leader Gurudas Dasgupta.

The House was adjourned when MPs continued to demand an investigation, after which Mukherjee discussed with other ministers the issue of setting up of a JPC.

AB Bank

to BCB for each match.

giving USD 30,000

yesterday.

FROM PAGE 17

round and if Bangladesh qualifies for the second round in the World Cup the sponsors would provide an additional U\$ 5000

AB Bank had also sponsored

the national team in the 2007

World Cup providing Tk10.20

lakhs while UCB was the spon-

sor for the 2009 World Cup by

Uddin Chowdhury and AB

Bank vice-president M Javed

Tariq signed a agreement on

behalf of their respective sides

at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium conference room

Shakib target

Captain Shakib was also upbeat

with his team's preparation

better than playing matches

before any tournament. I think

our preparation is good this

time and most importantly we

have been playing good cricket

for last few months and hope it

will continue in West Indies

and as well as in the England

yet to learn the craft of the latest

version of the game and they

have a lack of batsmen who can

like Symonds (Andrew) and

Adam Gilchrist but still we have

the strength and ability to do

something in the T20 game

also," said Shakib.

mesmerize the opponents.

It is told that Bangladesh is

"True we don't have players

tour," said the all-rounder.

"Nothing could have been

before the mega tournament.

BCB acting CEO Nizam

FROM PAGE 17

Manikganj

SPORT

Bewtha Mukul Fouz defeated Manikganj United City by four wickets to move into the second round in the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League at Manikgan Government Boys' High School play ground here yesterday.

Batting first, Manikganj United City were all out for 101 runs in 22.3 overs. Saddam scored 22 runs from 44 balls. Mamun and Liton took two wickets each for Bewtha Mukul

In replied, Bewtha Mukul Fouz reached 102 losing six wickets in 22.2 overs. Pinu and Robin remained not out on 23, 19 runs respectively and Suruz added 16 runs. Barshan picked up four wickets for Manikganj United City. Barshan gave only five runs from his five overs and got three maiden overs. Earlier Retired XI, Garpara

Association, Biltu Club, Sir Sadat Ali Memorial Club, Manikganj Cricket center and Purba Dashara Cricket XI confirmed playing in the second round. Eight teams of the 25 will play in the second round.

MERCEDES-BENZ TOUR

Rising stars to play Barclays S'pore Open

PRESS RELEASE

Singapore Open this year after announcing it has secured seven spots in one of the world's most lucrative national Opens.

The top six players from this year's final Mercedes-Benz Tour Order of Merit will qualify along with the number one ranked player from last year.

Thailand's Namchok Tantipokhakul, who claimed the 2009 Merit list following two victories, is therefore the first player to benefit from this exciting new development. Last season the Barclays

Singapore Open boasted prize money of US\$ 5 million and so a place in the field has the potential for a player to earn a bumper pay cheque. The tournament also offers

the opportunity to play alongside the best players in the world with former winners being Australian Adam Scott (2005 and 2006), Angel Cabrera from Argentina (2007), and England's Ian Poulter (2009).

claimed the B-ing Championship on home soil and the season-ending Mercedes-Benz Masters Vietnam in 2009 and earned US\$27,540 from eight events.

The stocky younger golfer

Filipino Artemio Murakami gave himself a great chance of becoming one of the six to make it through to Singapore this season by winning the Mercedes-Benz Masters Philippines last week. The tournament was the

opening even of the season. The final event on the

Mercedes-Benz Tour this year where the six qualifiers will be determined is the Mercedes-Benz Masters Indonesia at Emeralda Golf and Country Club-just outside Jakarta.

This event will be played from October 20 to 23 and as the Tour Championship it is restricted to the top-60 players

Competitors now head for

World T20 across Europe

INTERNET, undated



If you've ever wondered how to say "howzat?" in Polish or "free hit" in German, you could find out over the course of the next TWENTY20 few weeks as the Eurosport WEST INDIES 2010 channel will be broadcasting the upcoming ICC World Twenty20 from the West Indies in 14 languages across the length

and breadth of the continent. The broadcaster, which is an official licensee of ICC's broadcast partner ESPN STAR Sports, has confirmed it will broadcast 23 matches from the event. 14 games will be live on Eurosport 2 and all of the 23 will be available via Eurosport Player, Eurosport's online pay-TV service.

Along with the other licensees, this exciting development means that the ICC World Twenty20 2010 will be accessible to 56 territories across the continent of Europe. In addition, the full list of languages that Eurosport plans to broadcast in are Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Swedish and Turkish. This is in addition to the global reach of the

tournament through ESS's various licensees in more than 200 territories around the world. Through Eurosport, ESS is also launching its

exciting "What is Cricket?" educational campaign in order to continue building upon the event's growing popularity in Europe. This ESS campaign aims to build on last

year's efforts to bring Twenty20 International cricket closer to fans in Europe with five-minute promotional clips on Eurosport that introduce key elements of the sport and show new fans and viewers what makes the ICC World Twenty20 so exciting to watch. ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat said:

"This is another example of how the ICC and our partners are bringing the great sport of cricket to the world and promoting it beyond its traditional boundaries. It is great news for cricket and for the sports-lovers of Europe.

"This is the second time Eurosport has broadcast an ICC event -- the first being the ICC World Twenty20 2009 in England. After that tournament we received correspondence from cricket novices in places like Sweden and Italy wondering how they could find out more about the game and if there were any clubs in their neighbourhoods they could join," said Mr Lorgat.

"Being able to put these new cricket-lovers in touch with our Members across Europe was particularly satisfying and we hope this year's event in the West Indies will inspire yet more people to pick up the game."

The "What is Cricket?" campaign on Eurosport will take the form of regular on-air features explaining the fundamentals of the game to viewers who may not have seen much cricket in the past. ESS Managing Director Manu Sawhney said:

"We're very pleased to continue our partnership with Eurosport Group to showcase the ICC World Twenty20 event across continental Europe. "This event enjoys a strong following across

the region and we're committed to build on that popularity further with the 'What is Cricket?' campaign together with the ICC and Eurosport Group," said Mr Sawhney. "This unique educational campaign builds on the ICC World Twenty20's growing appeal

after last year's efforts to localize the event in 14 languages, and will go a long way in taking the game to new heights in the continent and bringing in new audiences for the future." Laurent-Eric Le Lay, Chairman and CEO of

Eurosport Group added: "We're delighted with the partnership between ESS and the ICC. We're looking forward to delivering the ICC World Twenty20 2010 in the best way possible to our viewers in Europe so they can enjoy the event in all its glory. "This is one of the year's biggest global sport-

ing events and we're confident that this new educational campaign combined with broadcasting the event in more languages will raise the bar in terms of reaching more fans."

We will overcome IPL crisis, says Tendulkar

PTI, New Delhi



The IPL controversy has left Indian cricket in complete chaos but senior batsman Sachin Tendulkar said he is optimistic that the game would tide over this crisis.

Reacting to the controversy that so far has cost union minister Shashi Tharoor his job, invited Income-Tax surveys and allegations of corruption, nepotism and rigged bidding against IPL Commissioner Lalit Modi, Tendulkar said the game was strong enough to survive the crisis.

"I think when that competitiveness is witnessed by millions, you leave all those things behind," said Tendulkar. "Life is not a smooth journey always, there are sometimes rough patches in between and you overcome all those hurdles. I'm sure cricket will help to overcome

all those hurdles," he said. According to Tendulkar, what matters to a

common fan was a competitive match between two sides. "People are waiting to see (IPL matches). Every evening they are switching on their television to see a competitive match. Any form of competitive sport is fantastic to watch and it's not only cricket. It could be any sport, that is what even I love." "I personally feel all these obstacles and

hurdles will be (overcome)," said the Mumbai Indians skipper. Tendulkar said incidents like this do not distract the players, who forget everything else when they enter a ground. "There are lot of things happening off-the-

field, outside the boundary line but once you cross the line, whatever you planned you want to go out and execute those plans," Tendulkar explained.

BARCELONA OPEN

The Mercedes-Benz Tour will offer its members a direct pathway into the Barclays TSONga thru' to last eight

Tennis

AFP, Barcelona

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga needed a fast change of tactics to reach the quarterfinals of the Barcelona Open as he defeated Spaniard Nicolas Almagro 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday. France's third seed, playing the clay event for

the first time, finds himself in a surprise Friday showdown with Thiemo de Bakker, who upset 2001 winner and seventh seed Juan Carlos Ferrero 7-6(7/2), 3-6, 7-6(7/4). There were only two bright spots for Spain,

with six of eight representatives from the country losing. Monte Carlo runner-up Fernando Verdasco,

seeded fifth, rallied to beat Austrian Jurgen Melzer

3-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-3. Two-time losing finalist David Ferrer won in 44 minutes when Simone Bolelli of Italy quit injured

trailing 6-0, 3-0. Swedish second seed Robin Soderling went

through after he defeated Feliciano Lopez 6-3, 6-2. Tsonga said he had to shift strategy back to the fast-paced game he knows best to get out of dan-

"I wasn't sliding well at the start, the clay was quite heavy," he said.

"I was struggling to adjust myself to the ball. Then I started to play a bit more how I play on hard court, which enabled me to get back into the match in the second and third sets.' Tsonga, now 17-7 for the season and looking

for his first ever title on clay, says he faces a tough task against Dutchman De Bakker. "It will be difficult, I played him in Davis Cup

on indoor clay," Tsonga said of the 21-year-old, who is ranked 67th in the world. "It was a tough match, very difficult. He's going to go up in the rankings in the next few months

and has a lot of potential." Tsonga has now beaten the 15th-seeded Almagro in all three of their 2010 meetings, earn-

ing victories at the Australian Open after a 9-7 fifth set and a week ago in straight sets at Monte Carlo. Tsonga was beaten on a late break of serve in the opening set by Almagro, one of eight Spanish players who began the third round in the Catalan

But Tsonga imposed his big game for 5-0 in the second on the way back to level-pegging at a set apiece.

The seed went up an early break in the third set to seal the victory, firing eight aces and breaking fourtimes. The eighth-seeded Ferrer, a former Top 10

player now standing 17th, will next meet Brazilian 13th seed Thomas Bellucci, a winner over Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-4, 6-4. Ferrer is appearing in a Barcelona quarterfinal

for the fourth year in a row.

Argentine Eduardo Schwank defeated another Spaniard, Ivan Navarro Pastor, 6-3, 7-6 (9/7).

PHOTO: COURTESY



Abahani dispense **FROM PAGE 17** gallery, with a few hundred grounder to the near post past Referee Azad Rahman could spectators uttering their the Chittagong goalkeeper.

MSC players skip

wages.

hardly whistle for fouls as both sides played the game at a snails pace and the coaches of both sides spent the full 90-minutes sitting on the players' tent.

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza (L) arrives with her husband Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik (R) at the

Mohammedan officials in a

bid to clear their unpaid

The players, however,

talked with assistant manager

Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, who

assured the players that he

would talk with the high-ups

Captain Arman Aziz said

that they did not take part in

the training because they have

already completed their sched-

uled four sessions after return-

ing from Chittagong where

they played against Chittagong

about the situation.

Abahani on April 19.

chances in the initial moments, Abahani struck goals one after another to end the first half with a 4-0 lead and spectators from north-west gallery, known as Mohammedan gallery, shouted towards the Abahani players that they did not come to watch a 'compro-

Nazimuddin 48, Faisal 23, Farhad 38, Sahagir 6, Nur 49, Shahadat 29, Enamul 7*, Rabiul 2, Extras 14; der Wath 2-51, Tsotsobe 1-76, Philander 1-28, Tshabalala 0-80, Elgar 2-73,

After missing some easy

mised match.'

However, the scenario was fully reversed at the south-west gallery, known as Abahani

wraths towards their beloved players for squandering chances. Interestingly, neither players nor spectators could celebrate after a goal.

He however admitted that

they wanted to meet the offi-

cials but could not get them

due to the busy schedules of

Meanwhile

Mohammedan's Nigerian trio

Alamu Bukola Olaleken,

Emeka Christian and Dami

Emmanuel had earlier opted

to keep themselves out of the

league matches after being left

without waegs and they had

returned to action after get-

ting the assurance that they

would get their dues immedi-

the officials.

Enamul Haque put Abahani ahead in the 18th minute before Matiur Munna doubled the margin nodding a Mehdi Hasan Ujjal cross home in the 36th minute. Five minutes from time, Sheriff struck his league 13th goal to join topscorers Mohammedan's Zahid Hasan Emily and Sheikh Russel's Samad Omari. In the stoppage time of the first half,

striker Awudu drove a

After resumption, the ball

was mostly confined to the midfield and both sides struck two goals each in the last 20 70th minute while illustrious league's 12th goal in the 85th minute for Abahani.

again found the back of the opponent net with a superb right-footer and Abahani's substitute Shohag sealed the match three minutes from time through a curling free kick from the left.

minutes. Chittagong striker Ronny pulled a goal back in the striker Enamul struck his One minute later, Ronny

from the Money List.

the Singha Pattaya Open at Burapha Golf Club from April 29 to May 2. The Mercedes-Benz Tour boasts 10 tournaments offering a total purse of US\$580,000.

A golfer tees off during the Mercedes-Benz Tour in Singapore recently.