

His father was a poet, so is his elder brother, but Sachin Tendulkar feels that he is born only to wield the willow and not the pen. "I haven't done that (writing) till now. I think God has given everyone some talent or the other. You have to appreciate the talent you get. I don't think I can create something of that level. I just have to sit back and appreciate that," Tendulkar said at a press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday.



SPORT

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Sania brings luck for Malik

SPORTS REPORTER

Sania Mirza, the most recognised tennis player of the subcontinent and a heart-throb of millions of youth around the world, is in town.

The 24-year old Indian tennis sensation, who bid an early bye to this year's Australian Open losing to Justine Henin in the first round wasted little time to fly to Bangladesh in a bid to encourage her husband, the Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik who is currently playing for Mohammedan in the Premier League.

And guess what? Lady luck did shine on the struggling all-rounder as he took five wickets for his team in their match against CCS in Bogra to turn the fortunes of his team and himself. The tennis star beamed when informed of her husband's feat at her arrival at the hotel.

"Yes I'm glad that he took five wickets today. He also played in the league last year in Dubai," recalled Sania who lives with her husband in Dubai since tying the knot in April last year.

She also commented on Malik's not getting into the Pakistan squad for the World Cup.

"There are ups and downs in every sports person's career. It's just a bad phase and it will go away soon I hope," she said.

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Indian tennis superstar Sania Mirza (C) enters the Sonargaon hotel after her arrival in Dhaka yesterday to visit husband Shoaib Malik who is currently playing for Mohammedan in the Premier League.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dollar bankrupts Sky Blues

SPORTS REPORTER

In the best all-round display this season, Dollar Mahmud muscled high-flying Abahani into submission in Bangladesh Biman's one-wicket victory in the Premier Division Super League yesterday.

Dollar obliterated the Sky Blues, who were poised for their tenth win during the Bogra encounter, before tail-ender Talha Jubair smashed Alauddin Babu for a six over mid-wicket to seal the victory.

Shoaib Malik also had an inspiring day, picking up a five-wicket haul in Mohammedan Sporting Club's 104-run thrashing over Cricket Coaching School.

In the day's other match, Gazi Tank eased past Old DOHS by eight wickets.

ABAHANI-BIMAN

Before Talha finished up the job, it was Dollar who made all the difference in a fine display of seam bowling as well as tail-end, Powerplay batting.

Coming in at No 9 with Biman starting at certain defeat (109-7) chasing Abahani's modest 191-run target, the big-hitting Dollar joined wicketkeeper Sajjad Kadir in the 32nd over.

The Abahani bowlers were doing a decent enough job but Dollar first decided to charge at left-arm spinner Saqlain Sajid, twice hitting him for six over mid-on off consecutive balls. He also took sixes off Tapash Baisya and

Alauddin, hammering five in all during his 45-ball 54 that also had a boundary.

Dollar added 59 for the eighth wicket with Sajjad, who chipped in with 20 off 37 balls, but was dismissed just six runs short of the target. Talha, however, finished up the job with two sixes as Biman got their seventh win to move



DOLLAR MAHMUD

to fifth position with 14 points.

Earlier, Dollar bowled a lively spell to pick up three wickets for 29 from his ten overs as Abahani's innings also had a similar pattern with the top-score coming from tail-ender Alauddin, who

| SUPER LEAGUE POINTS TABLE | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----|----|---|---|-----|
| Teams | M | W | L | T | Pts |
| Abahani | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 20 |
| MSC | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 19 |
| Gazi | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| DOHS | 12 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 16 |
| Biman | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 14 |

made 57 off 71 balls.

Apart from the half-century, the youngster also took four wickets for 35 games but ended up on the losing side.

MSC-CCS

It was a struggle for the Mohammedan top-order as only Khaled Mashud, opening the innings due to the absence of Tamim Iqbal, made a patient 54 off 81 balls at the BKSP.

The Motijheel outfit later found some important runs when Faisal Hossain hammered six boundaries and a six in his 68-ball 63, reaching a modest 220 in 49.1 overs. Suleiman Khan and Nazmul Hossain Milon took two wickets each.

But the modest total was enough for Mohammedan as the Mohammad Ashraf-lesser CCS capitulated in only 34.3 overs for 116 runs.

Malik's off-spin ran through their batting order, after he picked up five wickets for 15 runs in 5.3 overs while Raihanuddin took two wickets.

The victory put Mohammedan just a point behind arch-rivals Abahani.

DOHS-GAZITANK

At the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Gazi Tank moved into third position in the points table, replacing Old DOHS, who lost the game by eight wickets.

Batting first, Old DOHS made only 166 runs in 47.4 overs with the Gazi Tank bowling attack holding sway through their discipline. Mohammad Azim, Sabbir Rahman and Sanjamul

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Club Cup cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Brothers Union and Natore's Gani Flower Mills won their respective matches yesterday in the 2nd inter-district Club Cup Cricket Championship.

At Chittagong's MA Aziz Stadium, Brothers Union picked up a 26-run victory over Chandpur's Taltala Sporting Club and progressed further in the tournament.

In the day's other match in Dinajpur, Harevanga Sporting Club from Lalmonirhat lost to Gani Flower Mills by 54 runs.

2nd two-day game drawn

SPORTS REPORTER

The second two-day match between Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Under-15 and Bangladesh Under-15 ended in a draw yesterday at the Chinsurah Western Ground in Kolkata.

Winning the toss, the visitors elected to bat first and posted a total of 237 runs in their first innings, before being all out. The only notable score came from the bat of captain Mehdi Hasan who scored 83 runs hitting eleven boundaries and a six. Sarosij Mukherjee claimed five wickets for the hosts.

Bangladesh U-15s' strict bowling confined Bengal's innings to 158 runs. Mohammad Shafiq took four wickets, while Sujat Hasan, Mehdi and Joy Raj picked up two wickets each.

Bangladesh declared their second innings at 102-2, setting up a target of 182 runs for the hosts to win. Zakir Hossain scored 43 runs facing 45 deliveries.

Sayan Mondal and skipper Agniv Pan played out the day with the score of 75-2.

Opening ceremony tickets from early Feb

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets for the World Cup's opening ceremony are likely to be available in the first week of next month.

The February 17 event will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) media committee chairman Jalal Yunus suggested that 7,000-plus tickets will be available for public consumption, with the prices also being set.

"The prices will be Tk 1,000, Tk 10,000 and Tk 20,000 amongst the different galleries," he said. It was later known that gallery tickets will be sold for Tk 1,000, international gallery for Tk 10,000 and hospitality box seats for Tk 20,000.

"We have talked to a few banks and Dhaka Bank were interested. The tickets will be sold from the first week of February, around third or fourth of the month," said Yunus.

Most of the tickets would be sold in Dhaka due to the small number of tickets available for the ceremony.

Willes start with a win

SPORTS REPORTER

Willes Little Flower School made a fine start in the opening match of the Standard Chartered Young Tigers National School cricket tournament yesterday. They defeated Badda High School at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium by a big margin of 117 runs.

Batting first Willes piled up 326 runs in their 50 overs losing all their wickets. Mahir Zawad struck a brilliant century (106) to help Willes get to the large total. Rasel Islam was the only successful bowler for the Badda's, picking up four wickets.

In reply to the big chase, Badda were all out in the

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Sk Jamal back winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Farashganj SC struck the post twice and also scored an own goal to allow Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club to return to winning ways in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League after suffering a 2-0 defeat to the star-studded side at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

It could hardly have been a better start for the new coach Packer Ali in his first match in charge.

"A win was badly needed to boost up the morale of the players and we got exactly that. I think they are now free of pressure and will play accordingly in the coming days," said Sheikh Jamal coach Packer after the match.

Ali was also satisfied with the performance as the players followed his instructions. Smarting from a 1-0 defeat to

Arambagh KS, Sheikh Jamal looked purposeless until off-colour striker Zahid Hasan Emily headed a Mishu cross straight to goalkeeper Sujan Chowdhury on the half-hour mark.

Abdul Baten Komol then also side-volleyed a low Emily cross straight into the opponent goalkeeper and that was that for Sheikh Jamal before Farashganj took over the midfield.

Farashganj nearly scored the opener but Moly narrowly failed to connect a Moses header inside the six-yard box before Kalu Johnson rattled the bar in the 45th minute.

Captain Khokon Das and Sohel Rana played a one-two to enter the box on the right before Khokon chipped the ball in for Kalu, who saw his header bounce back after hitting the bar.

Farashganj once again came close to taking the lead in stoppage time of the first half but were deprived as Adami Moses hit the woodwork from a

free kick outside the box.

After the resumption, Sheikh Jamal looked better in terms of ball possession and launched attacks through two flanks that kept the opponent defenders under pressure.

Three minutes into the second half, right-back Shamal Ahmed Rony unfortunately put the ball past his own goalkeeper, as he attempted to clear a corner kick. And the defender also gifted Sheikh Jamal their second goal after failing to properly mark winger Shakil Ahmed as Enamul played a through-pass on the right and the elder brother of Emily drove a grounder past goalkeeper Sujan.

Sheikh Jamal were then deprived from a third when an attempt from midfielder Abdul Baten Komol came back off the bar in the 76th minute.

"The luck was not with us and the result could have been different had we not conceded an own goal," said

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ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP TALK

'India win was great'

The dependable Syed Rasel did a fantastic job with the new-ball, partnering Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. He talks to The Daily Star Sport about his 2007 World Cup experience.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): How did it feel when you heard that you would play the 2007 World Cup?

Syed Rasel (SR): When I started my cricket career I always dreamt of playing a World Cup for my country and it came true. Whether a cricketer or a non-cricketer, even someone who has less knowledge about the game, watches a World Cup match.

So I was very excited and proud at the same time.

DSS: How confident were you in the camp?

SR: Actually I was dropped from the squad in the series before the World Cup. I always had the determination to come back and play for my country.



SYED RASEL

The atmosphere was really good.

DSS: Any frustrating part in the World Cup?

SR: It would be against Ireland when I got injured just minutes before the toss. We lost that match. (Habibul Bashar) Sumon bhai still tells me, "If you played against us to achieve the good results."

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Teammates mob goal-scorer Shakil Ahmed (R) during Sheikh Jamal's 2-0 victory over Farashganj in their Bangladesh League match at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAFF