

**Tennis players start well in Myanmar**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's young tennis players made a good start at the Under-14 Asian Tennis Championship 2011 in Myanmar. Delowar Hossain of Bangladesh moved to the second round beating top-seed Tran Min Thong of Vietnam 6-3, 6-0 while Wy Mong Marma beat seventh seed Arkar Kiyau of Myanmar 6-4, 6-2 to advance yesterday.

Bangladeshi players are competing in Group-2 of the tournament that started on January 22 and will end on February 2.

In the boys' group, Delowar Hossain Shajal lost to Pakistan's Zayd Mojahid 7-5, 4-6, 4-6 in a hard-fought encounter.

In the girls group, Jhilik Chakma moved to round two beating Malaysia's Hin Nandar Ja 6-1, 7-6. However the other two participants Ayesha Sultana and Ishita Afroze lost their respective matches.

Delowar Hossain will meet Kingsley Daniel of Singapore while Wy Mong Marma will play against Hamza Bin Asif of Pakistan in the second round matches today.

**Sania brings**

FROM PAGE 16

This is not the first time that Sania Mirza has come to Bangladesh. Some ten years ago, a young Sania took part in the ITF under-14 tennis tournament, long before she shot so spectacularly to fame. "That was a long time ago, I was very young at that time. And that was as a tennis player, but this time it is on a personal visit."

Dhaka has changed a lot since, lots of traffic on the street," observed the tennis star.

**India win**

FROM PAGE 16

have won the match." DSS: Recall your sweetest memory. SR: The victory against India in our first match is the sweetest memory of all. I was wicketless in that match, but the greatest thing was we won the match, which helped us to reach further in the tournament. DSS: Expectations from this World Cup... SR: We are playing in home conditions and I hope the players take full advantage of it. Crowd will be behind the team. If they can play pressureless cricket then we will definitely reach later of the tournament.

**Dollar**

FROM PAGE 16

Islam took two wickets each while there was one each for Syed Rasel, Rasel Al Mamun, Nasir Hossain and Ali Azmat. Mohammad Mithun, leading the side in absence of Shahriar Nafees, slammed 79 off 60 balls during the short chase with Aamir Sajjad also providing 51 off 57 balls. BRIEFSCORES ABAHANI: 190 all out in 49.4 overs (Alauddin 57, Ranjan 42; Dollar 3-29, Shariful 2-15). BIMAN: 192-9 in 45.3 overs (Dollar 54, Avishek 42; Alauddin 4-35). Result: Biman won by 1 wicket. MSC: 220 all out in 49.1 overs (Mashud 54, Faisal 63; Nazmul 2-7, Suleiman 2-35). CCS: 116 all out in 34.3 overs (Bashar 20; Malik 5-15). Result: MSC won by 104 runs. DOHS: 166 all out in 47.4 overs (Mehrab 40; Azim 2-22). GAZI TANK: 169-2 in 25 overs (Mithun 79, Aamir 51 not out). Result: Gazi Tank won by 8 wickets.

**Willes start**

FROM PAGE 16

40th over scoring only 209 runs with Zakir Hossain contributing 42 runs. Ismail Reza took 4-38 for Willes.



Injured Bangladesh fast bowler Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) works out under the supervision of team physio Michael Henry at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. Mashrafe started bowling off a longer run-up after returning from Colombo, where he received encouraging news regarding his injury. PHOTO: STAR

**Federer, Djokovic set semi clash**

AP, Melbourne

Roger Federer edged closer to a showdown with Rafael Nadal at the Australian Open with a 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 win over Stanislas Wawrinka on Tuesday in an all-Swiss quarterfinal. Defending champion Federer faced just one break point, winning all 13 of his service games, and polished off his Beijing Olympics doubles gold medalist teammate in 1 hour, 47 minutes. "When it's clicking it's really a good feeling, and I don't ask too many questions," Federer said of his dominant serve. All facets of Federer's game were working Tuesday as he advanced to a semifinal against Novak Djokovic, who beat him here in 2008 en route to the Australian Open title. No. 3-ranked Djokovic overpowered Tomas Berdych 6-1, 7-6 (5), 6-1 in a night match at Rod Laver Arena. "I was trying to change the pace, put him out of the comfort zone," Djokovic said. "When he is in his comfort zone, he is a very difficult player, hits very strong, he has powerful strokes, powerful serve. So I

needed to put some variety in the game." He's liking his chances in the semifinals. "If I continue playing like this, I think I have a good chance," Djokovic said. "But in the next match I have Federer. We all know he is the best player ever, so we all know it's going to be tough." Still in the realm of probability for the defending champion Federer is a final against top-ranked Nadal and a chance to prevent the Spanish lefthander from winning his fourth consecutive Grand Slam. No man has held all four major titles since Rod Laver in 1969. Nadal plays fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in one quarterfinal Wednesday, while Andy Murray takes on Alexandr Dolgoplov in the other. Federer is not looking ahead to Nadal just yet. "It's normal to follow Rafa in a big way because he's going for something particularly very special," Federer said. "My focus is not playing him in the finals quite yet. He still has to win a few matches against really tough players ahead of him. I got my hands full... I'm not quite there."

**Swann ruled out Fourth Aus-Eng ODI today**

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

England are confident spinner Graeme Swann will be fit for next month's World Cup, despite being ruled out Tuesday of the rest of the Australian tour with a back injury. England coach Andy Flower said Swann would not play in any of the final four matches of the seven-game one-day international series against Australia, which the home side lead 3-0. Swann, who had been expected to miss Wednesday's match at the Adelaide Oval due to a bruised knee, is heading back to England to prepare himself for the World Cup, being held in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. All-rounder Tim Bresnan has already headed home after suffering a calf strain during the second match in Hobart last Friday. Flower said the grueling tour, now well into its

third month, was taking its toll on the tourists. "Graeme Swann will be taking the earliest flight home," Flower said. "He's unfortunately got a strain in his lower back and that, allied with his knee problem, means that it is best for him to go home and get ready for the World Cup now. "Of course it is a big blow, he's an important part of our side, he's a world-class performer and he's full of confidence obviously after the Ashes. "We are coming towards the end of a long, hard tour and certainly the physical challenges are starting to take their toll." Flower said Swann would be missed during the remainder of the one-day series, with England struggling to maintain their five-series winning streak in 50-over cricket. Swann said he was confident he would be fit for the World Cup, which runs from February 19 to April 2. "It's frustrating to return

home from the tour early but the priority for me now is the World Cup and getting my body right so that I am able to play an important role for England throughout the tournament," he said. In good news for England, seamer James Anderson, rested for the first three games, is expected to play on Wednesday, and batsman Kevin Pietersen has shrugged off a groin problem. Seamer Stuart Broad is back with the squad after suffering an abdominal strain during the Ashes but is unlikely to feature in the one-dayers.

**Sk Jamal**

FROM PAGE 16

Farashganj coach Kamal Babu. With two wins in five matches, Sheikh Jamal leaptfrogged to fourth position from eighth place with eight points while Farashganj SC are in seventh with six points from five games.

**Caroline, Li in last four**

AP, Melbourne

Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki overcame a slow start to beat French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 Tuesday and advancing to a semifinal against China's Li Na of the Australian Open.

This is Wozniacki's first Grand Slam as No. 1, a position called into question because she'd never won a major. She rallied from a set and a break down against Schiavone, before clinching it on her fourth match point nine minutes after she first served for the match.

It has been a tumultuous tournament for Wozniacki, who, after being told her media conferences were boring, prepared a monologue to answer all the questions she thought she might be asked.

Li advanced to the semifinals for the second year in a row at Melbourne Park after beating Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-2, 6-4.

The other women's semifinalists will be decided Wednesday when second-seeded Vera Zvonareva plays Petra Kvitova and US Open champion Kim Clijsters takes on Agnieszka Radwanska.

Schiavone dominated the opening set and a half before the effects of her previous match kicked in. She beat Svetlana Kuznetsova in a three-set match lasting 4 hours, 44 minutes, a record for a women's Grand Slam singles match.

"Maybe in the third set I felt a little bit something physically, but it's not an excuse," Schiavone said. "I think I gave the best that I could do."

Wozniacki described Schiavone as a "fighter." "She started off really, really well and I didn't feel like I had the right timing," Wozniacki said. "So it was difficult for me in the beginning, but I fought back and I'm so happy that I'm standing here as the winner."

The match point was contentious first called out by a line judge. An overrule by chair umpire Eva Aseraki forced Wozniacki to ask for a video ruling, which confirmed the initial call that ended the match.

Schiavone knew the match was over even before the replay. "I saw the ball was out, was no chance," she said.

Li, who lost the 2010 semifinal in two tiebreak sets to eventual champion Serena Williams, came to Melbourne after winning the title at a tuneup event in Sydney and is on a 10-match winning streak.

"It's good for me. I mean, the second time in the Grand Slam semifinal, always in the Australia Open, and also before

I played well in Sydney," she said. "Hopefully I can do better in this year, and everyone will see me again."

Li was the first Chinese woman to win a WTA tour event, and the first to enter the top 10. Her run to the Wimbledon quarterfinals in 2006 was the best for a Chinese player in a major at the time. Now her return to the semis is a first.

No Chinese woman has won a major, but Petkovic thinks that can change here.



Danish tennis star Caroline Wozniacki is pumped up after winning a point against Francesca Schiavone of Italy during their Australian Open quarterfinal yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

**Change the Game with Pepsi**

SPORTS REPORTER

PepsiCo, one of the global sponsors of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011, are embarking on a campaign titled 'Change the Game' for cricket fans around the country to have an opportunity of witnessing the World Cup matches from the stands. The five winners of this campaign will have the opportunity to watch the final match from the stands of the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on April 2 while others will win exciting gifts. The campaign starts today and will run up to March 31. Officials of Transcom Beverages, the local franchisees of brand Pepsi, gave out details of the campaign at a press conference yesterday. Tamim Iqbal, the national team's opening batsman was also present as a brand ambassador. To take part in the campaign, a fan will need to purchase a PET bottle and SMS the hidden code number under the bottle's cap to a designated number. Each SMS will be registered as a run against that person's cell number.

**Akram all praise for Kirsten**

Cricket

PTI, New Delhi

Gary Kirsten's low-profile coaching approach has been instrumental in Indian cricket team's success in recent years and it will be a big loss for the team when he quits after the World Cup, former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said on Tuesday. Akram rated Kirsten as one of the best coaches in the world and said his three-year association with India has done wonders for the team. "Gary has done wonders for Team India. He is one of the best coaches that I have seen in international cricket. He has a quiet personality and does his job without much fuss.

He plays a good part behind the scenes. He has always been a much organised cricketer and we saw that aspect in his coaching as well," Akram said.

"His qualities as a player and as a person rubbed on Team India as they performed well. Mahendra Singh Dhoni and his men will surely miss him in the dressing room. The management will also have a tough time in trying to find his replacement. But I feel India should concentrate on the World Cup rather than Kirsten. As they say, all good things must come to an end," Akram told a sports website.

Kirsten took over India coach in March 2008 and during his tenure, the team recorded Test and ODI series whitewash of Australia (2-0 and 1-0) and New Zealand (1-0 and 5-0) last year, both at home.



Bangladesh opening batsman Tamim Iqbal (3rd from L) and officials from Transcom Beverages answering questions at a press conference for Pepsi's Change the Game campaign launched in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

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50 Stick with a kick  
51 Chic no more

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

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S T G H E O C S A I N R W N Q O T  
G E O C W , M N B J A J N B V E J O W  
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOME VULTURES WERE LIVING IN AN APARTMENT THAT THEY OWNED. IT WAS A PRETTY LARGE CONDOR CONDO. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals Y