

## MSC officials brawl at box

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan's continuous poor performance in the Grameenphone Federation Cup prompted its former and current officials to exchange heated words for the second time.

The incident took place at the President's Box of the Bangabandhu National Stadium as Mohammedan were trailing 2-0 against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their crucial Group A encounter.

Sajed AA Adel, former MSC official who joined Beanibazar SC this season, lamented the performance of Mohammedan and got involved in an argument with Josimuddin Ahmed Josi, member of MSC's football technical committee. They exchanged heated words, the abuse escalating to such a point when terms such as "rajakar" were thrown about before former star player and current official Rummon Bin Sabbir intervened to pacify the situation.

Sabbir blamed MSC officials and their forming a depleted squad behind Mohammedan's poor performance.

Club director Mahbub Rob, former officials Mustakur Rahman and some die-hard supporters were also saddened by the incident.

"The way Sajed bhai behaved with Josi bhai is not acceptable," said Rob.

"Some people were happy when the game was goalless and they even smiled when Mohammedan conceded a goal," he added.

When asked about the poor performance of the club, Josi said, "We have nothing to do at the moment but we will make sure that Mohammedan form a better squad in the next season."

## Army maul Jessore

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army thrashed Jessore by 15-0 goals in the Trust Bank-Viyellatex 28th National Hockey Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Serajul Islam scored a late hat-trick while Krishno Kumar and Milon Hossain scored three goals apiece for Army. Rokonuzzaman and Sanwar Hossain scored two each while Mehedi Hasan and Abdul Malek scored one apiece for the winners.

Tangail eked out a 3-1 win over Bangladesh Air Force in the second match of the day, with Manik getting on the scoresheet twice and Pintu getting the other for the winners. Rumman Ali scored the consolation goal for Air Force.

## Muktis break

**FROM PAGE 16** Mohammedan though found a consolation goal in the 65th minute when Willkok, availing a long-ball from compatriot Jonson, sent the ball over goalkeeper Mamun Khan from inside the box.

At Kamalapur, Team BJMC, who returned to top-flight football after 29 years, produced a superb performance to emerge as Group A champions with two wins and a draw. Muktiyoddha finished behind Team BJMC with six points.

Team BJMC dominated their one-sided encounter and took a commendable 4-0 lead before the breather. They added two more goals in the second half to add salt to the wounds of the second-tier professional league side.

The newcomers, BJMC, went ahead with a seventh-minute goal from Guinean forward Bangoura Ismail who doubled the lead in the 37th minute before Abdullah Parvez and Nigerian hitman Ajangun Abdul Rasheed widened the margin scoring in the 40th and 42nd minutes respectively.

After the breather, Nigerian Felix and veteran Alfaz Ahmed struck in the 58th and 69th minutes to complete the rout.



Caroline Wozniacki plays forehand against Dominika Cibulkova in their second round match of the Sydney International tennis event yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Hard wins for top guns

### Tennis

AFP, Sydney

World number one Caroline Wozniacki and her chief rankings rival Petra Kvitova had demanding three-set introductions to the Sydney International in their first official matches of the season on Tuesday.

Wozniacki and Kvitova, tuning up for next week's Australian Open, were on court for more than two hours in warm conditions after beginning their Australian campaigns indoors at last week's Hopman Cup in Perth.

Wozniacki was beaten by world number two Kvitova in three sets in the mixed teams Hopman Cup, after beating American Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova in her other singles matches.

After her two hour and 22 minute match against the 18th-ranked Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova, the Danish world number one said her 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 victory had been a tough contest.

Wozniacki set up a quarterfinal clash against Polish seventh seed Agnieszka Radwanska, who overcame Germany's Andrea Petkovic in straight sets. Wozniacki leads Radwanska 5-1.

On her much-anticipated contest with Kvitova for the top spot, the Dane said she was looking forward to it. Kvitova trails Wozniacki by 295 rankings points with 470 points up for grabs to the winner of the Sydney International.

Kvitova also a had tough fight against Romania's Alexandra Dulgheru, needing two hours and 18 minutes to defeat the world number 66 at the Ken Rosewall Arena.

The powerful left-hander, who became the third Czech woman to win Wimbledon last year, faltered in the heat during the middle set before regaining her form and setting up a quarterfinal with Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova.

Defending champion Li Na also had a difficult time before subduing South African Chanelle Scheepers 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 to set up a quarterfinal with Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic.

China's world number five Li had problems with Scheepers' power game before adjusting her tactics to take control.

French Open semifinalist Marion Bartoli skated into the quarters with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Australian Jelena Dokic and will play third seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the last eight.

Azarenka accounted for Serbia's Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 6-2.

## Venus out of Aussie Open

### Tennis

AFP, Washington

Seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus Williams withdrew from the Australian Open on Monday as she struggles to return from the autoimmune disease Sjogren's syndrome.

In a posting on her website, the US star said that she has been making progress and plans to return to WTA Tour play in February, when events begin in the United States.

"I regret to announce that I am withdrawing from the 2012 Australian Open," Williams said on her website.

"After several months of training and treat-

ment, I am making steady progress to top competitive form.

"My diet and fitness regimen have allowed me to make great strides in terms of my health and I am very close to being ready to return to WTA competition. I have every intention to return to the circuit in February."

Williams, whose ranking has slipped to 100th in the world, pulled out of last week's WTA event in Auckland because of the illness, which saps her energy and causes pain in her joints.

World number one Caroline Wozniacki said Williams's health was the most important thing.

"Venus has played for many years, but she's been unlucky with the virus thing," Wozniacki said at the Sydney International.

## Chittagong priciest

FROM PAGE 16

mix is possible for the division that is regarded as the best in the country when it comes to the sport. "I think we will have a good team with a proper combination of overseas players and home-grown talent, especially with the funds available," he said.

Managing director Mushfiqur Rahman Mohon has said that he will provide the financial backing for the think-tank. "Rajshahi Warriors chief advisor is Athar Ali Khan and team manager is Faruque Ahmed. My job is to provide the funds for these two gentlemen to manage. We have two coaches among whom one is our very own Khaled Mashud," he said.

A group of business houses led by Walton got Sylhet for 1.06 million dollars. The electronic goods company will stay the majority owners and have distributed the rest of the ownership among other parties.

The Dhaka franchise was picked up by Europa Group for 1.05 million dollars with the other bidders -- Digital Auto Care and Euro Impex -- offering the base price. This was a bit of a surprise given the prestige attached to the country's biggest division (as was the case when the teams were sold for the NCLT20s two years ago).

Europa Group director Shihab Chowdhury confirmed that they too have the services of a former national captain to form their side. "We are very happy and excited to get Dhaka as it is the capital and the most vibrant city. It will have the biggest fan base and the most games played there. We already have Habibul Bashar as our team consultant. He will be organising everything and helping build the team," he said.

Alif Group has taken the Barisal franchise for the lowest price -- 1.01 million dollars -- though it was a bit of a travesty as Southern International quoted 900,000 dollars which is less than the base price for a franchise.

The quotation of a price below the base indicated the lack of confidence among many about buying one of these franchises.

## Lions bite

FROM PAGE 16

17; Meaker 4-47, Brothwick 2-33, Briggs 2-38).

**ENGLAND LIONS:** 177-4 in 37.3 overs (Bairstow 50 not out, Vince 44, Buttler 41 not out; Robiul 2-20, Shuvo 2-38).

**Result:** England Lions won by six wickets.

## Emeka

FROM PAGE 16

Emeka adding that the local players are also immature and don't have much professionalism among them.

Asked whether he was doing his job perfectly, Emeka said, "It is a challenge which is not only for me but also for the club's stakeholders -- fans, officials, media and coaches. We have to keep ourselves together to overcome this challenge."

## Premier League

FROM PAGE 16

Victoria from Mohammedan. Victoria maintained an all-win record by winning the previous three matches while Mohammedan won two games out of three.

In the day's other matches, Abahani take on Surjo Torun at BKSP and Gazi Tank meet Kalabagan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

# Baptism for de Villiers

## First South Africa-Sri Lanka ODI today

### Cricket

AFP, Paarl

AB de Villiers takes on a new challenge when he captains South Africa in the first one-day international against Sri Lanka at Boland Park on Wednesday.

De Villiers was appointed captain of South Africa's one-day and Twenty20 teams when Gary Kirsten was named coach last June, but a hand injury kept him out of matches against Australia.

Hashim Amla took over as captain in a drawn Twenty20 series and a one-day series which Australia won 2-1.

It will be a tough baptism for de Villiers, one of South Africa's key batsmen, because he has also been selected to keep wicket.

Sri Lanka, coming off a 2-1 Test series defeat, will seek to recapture the form that took them to the World Cup final last year.

Their squad includes fast bowler Lasith Malinga, one of the most effective bowlers in limited-overs cricket, who is no longer available for Tests.

The first four matches are being played at some of South Africa's lesser venues before the fifth and final game

is staged at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

Paarl has not hosted an international match since the World Cup in 2003. The pitch at Boland Park is known as one of the slowest in South Africa, which should suit a sub-continental team such as Sri Lanka.

The conditions could encourage Sri Lanka to field unorthodox spin bowler Ajantha Mendis, who did not feature in the Test series, alongside left-armers Rangana Herath, who was one of his side's best bowlers in the Tests.

Only six of the South Africans played in the Test series. Vernon Philander, the fast bowling discovery of the Test summer, was not included, nor was opening batsman Alviro Petersen, who made a century in the final Test.

Amla is expected to open with Test skipper Graeme Smith, who relinquished the one-day captaincy after the World Cup.

Test wicketkeeper Mark Boucher no longer appears to feature in South Africa's one-day plans.

Test spinner Imran Tahir was not included in South Africa's squad but one-day regulars, off-spinner Johan Botha and left-armers Robin Peterson, will carry out spinning duties. Other

one-day specialists include batsmen Faf du Plessis and J.P. Duminy.

The withdrawal through injury of batsman Dean Elgar means that fast bowler Rory Kleinveldt, who has appeared in Twenty20 internationals, is the only player in the South African squad who does not have a one-day cap.

By contrast, the Sri Lankan squad includes 10 players who appeared in the Test series.

With Malinga and Mendis likely to strengthen the team for one-day purposes, the tourists could provide stern opposition for a South African team under new leadership.

### SQUADS

**SOUTH AFRICA:** AB de Villiers (captain), Hashim Amla, Johan Botha, JP Duminy, Faf du Plessis, Jacques Kallis, Rory Kleinveldt, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Robin Peterson, Graeme Smith, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.

**SRI LANKA:** Tillakaratne Dilshan (captain), Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, Dilhara Fernando, Rangana Herath, Mahela Jayawardene, Kosala Kulasekara, Nuwan Kulasekara, Lasith Malinga, Ajantha Mendis, Thisara Perera, Dhammika Prasad, Kumar Sangakkara, Upul Tharanga, Lahiru Thirimanne.

## Kalabagan, Eskaton win

SPORTS REPORTER

Kalabagan defeated Khelaghar by six wickets in their First Division Super League match at the BKSP-3 yesterday. Batting first Khelaghar made 186-8 in 48 overs. In reply Kalabagan reached their target in 46.1 overs with Saiful Islam top scoring with 75 runs. In the day's other match Eskaton defeated Bangladesh Boys by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Put into bat Bangladesh Boys were all out for 130 in 46.3 overs with Samiul taking 3-13. In reply Eskaton reached their target in 42.5 overs with Sakhawwat making 39 runs.

## Army, Navy to battle it out

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy will fight for the title deciding match of the Citycell 25th National Basketball Championship at the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium today. The match will start at 3:30pm. Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad will distribute prizes as the chief guest at the closing ceremony.

Meanwhile, in their last match of the group phases yesterday, Khulna defeated Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP) by 57-51 points. The winners led the first half by 32-26 points. Shoeb scored highest 25 points in the game for Khulna.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Decker	DOWN	24 Vast
1 Anti-aircraft fire	40 Mar-seilles	1 Showbiz failure	25 Morning-after woe
5 Total	41 Turns to the right	2 Wash	27 Diving bird
8 "That's a relief!"	43 Lawn glistener	3 State with certainty	29 UN workers' grp.
12 Volcanic outflow	45 Loss' opposite	4 Destiny	30 Vegas-based crime series
13 CAT scan alternative	47 About three miles	5 Slight amount	32 Close-fitting jackets
14 Exceptional	51 Adore	6 Grecian vessel	34 Atheistic
15 Type of tennis stroke	52 Eave	7 Interior	37 Island
17 Paquin or Faris	54 Addict	8 Grass-land	39 Ante-lope's playmate
18 Allow	55 Existed	9 Relinquish	44 "Yippee!"
19 Brooklyn center fielder Duke	56 Hodge-podge	10 Sea eagle	45 Potential prune
21 Pismire	57 Red Planet	11 Have on	46 Santa —, Calif.
22 Novice	58 Type measures	16 Clue	48 Festive
23 Blond shade	59 Feedbag contents	20 Big Apple letters	49 One
26 Earl Grey, e.g.		23 iPhone download	50 Ids' counter-parts
28 Honda model			53 Moving truck
31 Bartlett or Bosc			
33 Carpet			
35 Congers, e.g.			
36 Discussion group			

Solution time: 21 mins.

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### CRYPTOQUIP

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K S N Q K H N , Y R C H G G A P C ' Z H  
R P Y U R X Y U J P X Q K P E Y U R .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT GUY HAS A PECULIAR FEAR OF ANYTHING THAT'S EGG-SHAPE, HE USUALLY AVOIDS OVOIDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals Q