

## Nat'l hockey semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

Both the semifinals of the Trust Bank-ViyellaTex 28th National Hockey Championship will be held at Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium today.

Faridpur will take on Bangladesh Navy in the first semifinal at 12pm while BKSP will meet Bangladesh Army in the second semi at 3pm.

## Div-II football from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Destiny Second Division Football League kicks off with the match between PWD SC and Little Friends Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

A total of 17 teams, split into two groups, are taking part in the meet. The top four teams from each group will reach the super league stage and the top four finishers from there will be promoted to the first division. The bottom two finishers will be relegated to the third division.

A press conference in this connection was arranged at the BFF house yesterday where the BFF and Destiny 2000 Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The company will be the sponsor of the first and second division leagues and will provide Tk 30 lakhs to BFF.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, vice president Badal Roy, Destiny 2000 Ltd. chairman Mohammed Hossain, Metropolis Football Committee chairman Harunur Rashid were among others present in the occasion.

## U-19s kick off

FROM PAGE 16

Nur Hossain then took charge as only leg-spinner captured four wickets conceding just 31 runs to wrap up the England Under-19 team for 221 runs.

Daniel Bell was the top-scorer for the visitors with 55 off 79 balls with five boundaries.

The second match will be take place tomorrow at the same venue.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BANGLADESH UNDER-19:** 265-8 in 50 overs (Anamul 22, Liton 40, Asif 27, Mosaddek 81, Al-Amin 50; Shozair Ali 3-58, Sam Wood 3-48)

**ENGLAND UNDER-19:** 221 all out in 47.2 overs (Daniel Bell 55, Ben Foakes 32, Aneesh Kapil 43; Asif 2-44, Nur 4-31)

**Result:** Bangladesh Under-19 won by 44 runs.

## Good and bad

FROM PAGE 16

costing the Sylhet franchise 100,000 dollars.

On the other hand, the BPL authorities could get a shot in the arm if Game On Sports can bring in ESPNStar as the international broadcaster of the competition, as the popular sports channel is in talks with the event management firm a source confirmed.

When asked about the potential deal, BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus said, "It is more or less confirmed."

Though the contemporary skipper has backed out, West Indies legends Viv Richards and Gordon Greenidge have been linked with BPL.

It was learned from franchise sources that the Master Blaster is all set to become the brand ambassador of the Chittagong Kings while Greenidge could join the Khulna Royal Bengals as the head coach.

Meanwhile, the BPL governing council in a meeting yesterday fixed the price of the icon players of the six franchises, which will be five per cent more than the highest valued Bangladeshi cricketer in the BPL T20 auction held on January 19. Since Nasir Hossain was the highest priced local player at 200,000 dollars, the icons will each receive 210,000 dollars.



World No 1 Novak Djokovic hits a backhand against Nicolas Mahut (not in picture) in their third round match of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Don't chase BCCI: Mani



PTI, Karachi

Former International Cricket Council president Ehsan Mani has advised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to stop "wasting time" in trying to convince the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for resumption of bilateral cricket ties between the two countries.

"The Pakistan board is wasting its time because cricket ties between the two countries have always been influenced by politics between the two governments," Mani told Geo News in Dubai.

"Instead of running after the Indian board and trying to convince them, the PCB should utilise its energies in seeking government help and support in order to get bilateral ties resumed," he said.

Mani said efforts needed to be made to get the Indian government to give clearance for bilateral matches.

"That is why this matter has to be resolved at the political and government level and not by the boards. It is important for Pakistan

and India to play cricket but this is something for the politicians to realise," he added.

Since Zaka Ashraf took over as Chairman, PCB has made several attempts to convince the BCCI to give a go-ahead for Pakistan's scheduled tour to India next year which has now been shelved due to various reasons, mainly the organisation of the Asia Cup in Bangladesh in March.

Mani said it was most unfortunate that Pakistan was not getting any international cricket.

"I think the ICC need to do more to get teams to now play in Pakistan. That is why it is good that the PCB has also taken the initiative by inviting Bangladesh," he said.

"It is time international teams played in Pakistan which is a nation of 180 million people, most of whom are passionate about cricket and deserve to see international cricket at home," he added.

PCB has sent its chief operating officer Subhan Ahmad to Dhaka to convince their Bangladesh counterpart to send a security delegation to Pakistan ahead of the series to be held in April.

## Sheikh Jamal in final

FROM PAGE 16

Orunimi providing delightful balls for his compatriots Kester and Allen. The match tilted towards the favour of Sheikh Jamal in the 33rd minute when Sheikh Russel's premier marksman Alamu Bukola seriously injured himself after hitting his head heavily against the ground. Bukola was taken to the hospital while Zahed Parvez Chwodhury took his place, resulting in a more conservative counterattacking approach that left ample space for the opposition to dominate the midfield.

Both coaches conceded after the match that Bukola's injury played a big role in the outcome of the game.

"We were even till the Bukola incident, but after that we played badly. We had to adopt to a counterattacking approach after that. The other striker (Emako) is inexperienced which was another reason for failure," rued Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque.

"Bukola's injury was a big moment in the match as it made it easier for our defenders," said Titu.

Sheikh Jamal started to dominate completely after Bukola's removal and created a

few decent opportunities, the best of which fell to Kester on the 49th minute. But the Nigerian blasted the ball wide from a point-blank range with only the keeper Biplob Bhattacharjee to beat. Biplob then made a valiant save in the 71st minute by throwing himself at the feet of the ball with Allen about to unleash a shot.

When it looked like that the gruelling effort of the teams was to be extended for another half an hour, came the decisive move in the 86th minute. Sheikh Jamal striker Abdul Baten Majumder Komol darted down the right before crossing it to Kester whose goal bound attempt was handled by veteran defender Prodip Barua. Prodip was sent off and the resulting penalty was converted easily by Kester. Three minutes later, the scoreline was doubled when Kester sent a through-ball for Allen who cut back his marker before placing it past the keeper on the back of the net.

The 2-0 win ensured revenge for their 1-2 reverse at the hands of the same opposition in the group stage and also ensured their second successive Federation Cup final. The Dhanmondi Club will meet first-timers Team BJMC in the final on Tuesday.

## DOHS stay on top

FROM PAGE 16

21 off 59 balls with two boundaries.

In reply, Saeed Anwar hit an unbeaten 37 and Ashraf added 25 as Old DOHS made 89 for two in 21.2 overs.

Meanwhile, Brothers officials expressed their anger over some decisions in the match where manager Amin Khan was also present, even though he had been handed a five-match suspension and a Tk 20,000 fine for misconduct during their match against Bangladesh Biman.

### VICTORIA V SHEIKH JAMAL

A strong effort from the Sheikh Jamal bowlers was negated by a poor approach from their batsmen. The two big stars Tamim Iqbal (27) and Shakib Al Hasan (17) failed to score enough runs, but still Victoria managed to get 203 runs on the board thanks largely to the efforts of Kamran Sajid -- who scored 58 off 95 balls with two fours and a six -- Shabbir Rahman and Mukter Ali.

The late surge from Shabbir, who made 29 and Mukter (25) helped title aspirants Victoria cross the 200-mark.

Dhruv Singh was the most successful bowler with four wickets for 55 runs.

In reply, Sheikh Jamal desperately needed a substantial innings from the top order, but the top five batsmen gave away their

wickets after settling in. Mushfiqur Rahim top-scored with 52.

Pacer Al Amin continued his impressive run, taking four wickets while Shakib and Kamran Younus gave him good support taking two wickets each.

### PRIME DOLESHWAR V SURJO TORUN

Prime Doleshwar thrived on half-centuries from Kamran Akmal and Manvinder Singh to post a fighting total of 255 for nine from 50 overs.

Kamran hit 64 off 81 balls that featured nine fours and a six while Manvinder contributed 52 off 66 balls with four boundaries.

Imran Ullah grabbed three wickets for 46 runs.

In reply, Surjo Torun were bundled out for 183 runs as half-centuries from Jupiter Ghosh and Taiabur Parvez were not good enough to bring the struggling side their first win in their sixth match.

Qaiser, who made 36 in Prime Doleshwar's innings, also shone with the leather taking three wickets while Taijul Islam also picked up three wickets.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**BROTHERS:** 88 all out in 33.2 overs (Mansoor 21; Nabil 2-13, Shuvagato 4-20, Ashraf 2-14)

**OLD DOHS:** 89-2 in 21.2 overs (Saeed 37 not out, Ashraf 25)

**Result:** Old DOHS won by eight wickets.

**VICTORIA:** 203-8 in 50 overs (Tamim 27, Jahurul 24, Kamran 58, Shabbir 29, Mukter 25; Dhruv 4-55, Mahamudul 2-26)

**SHEIKH JAMAL:** 182 all out in 46.4 overs (Rahul 32, Mushfiqur 52, Alamin 4-38, Shakib 2-27, Kamran 2-37)

**RESULT:** Victoria won by 21 runs.

**PRIME DOLESHWAR:** 255-9 in 50 overs (Sayem 36, Kamran Akmal 64, Manvinder 52, Qaiser 36; Imran 3-46, Raja 2-40)

**SURJO TORUN:** 183 all out in 49.1 overs (Jupitar 51, Taiabur 62; Qaiser 3-22, Taijul 3-29)

**Result:** Prime Doleshwar won by 72 runs.

## Biman will

FROM PAGE 16

the country's only female sports personality to have her name listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for her record 16 national titles.

"Maybe some of the players will leave the sport for good," said Linu.

Despite the trouble facing domestic cricket and table tennis, some quarters have observed that the example made out of the two sporting units could serve well for the national carrier since it has been mired with corruption for the past several years.

# More sails than upsets

AFP, Melbourne



The Grand Slam of Asia-Pacific

Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray had time for jokes and smiles as they breezed into the Australian Open fourth round on Saturday -- but there

were tears as two top women lost out.

Serena Williams thrashed Greta Arn as she moved towards her sixth Melbourne title in ominous fashion, Kei Nishikori made history for Japan and Zheng Jie kept up an impressive performance from China's women.

Men's champion Djokovic happily destroyed injury-hit Nicolas Mahut 6-0, 6-1, 6-1, but he did his best to cheer up the Frenchman on his 30th birthday as he played to the crowd on a bright Saturday in Melbourne.

Mahut, compromised by a left knee injury, maintained his good humour and he shrugged and smiled broadly to fans when he finally won a game at the start of the second set. He was later given a birthday cake by reporters.

Later, Murray won an entertaining match with French doubles specialist Michael Llodra 6-4, 6-2, 6-0, which included so many crowd-pleasing rallies and cute volleys that it looked like an exhibition.

"[Coach] Ivan Lendl would have

preferred a few more bread and butter points, serve and forehand finish, but that was my style of tennis tonight and I hope everyone enjoyed it," Murray said.

Mahut, who lost the longest match in tennis history at Wimbledon 2010, was not the only injury casualty on day six as Russia's Maria Kirilenko became the second women's retirement in quick succession.

Just hours after Anabel Medina Garrigues agonisingly rolled her ankle against Li Na late on Friday, Kirilenko lasted just one game into the second set against Petra Kvitova before retiring with a thigh problem.

Williams showed no signs of her recent ankle sprain as she thumped Hungary's Arn for the loss of just two games, and Serbia's Ana Ivanovic set up a fourth round match with Wimbledon champion Kvitova.

Maria Sharapova, who lifted the women's trophy four years ago, won 6-1, 6-2 against Angelique Kerber and will next play Germany's Sabine Lisicki.

But former world number two Vera Zvonareva departed in tears after she was shocked by 56th-ranked fellow Russian Ekaterina Makarova. China's Zheng also upset French number one Marion Bartoli to join compatriot Li Na in round four.

## Veronica, Usain honoured in Jamaica

AFP, Kingston

Usain Bolt and Veronica Campbell-Brown, winners of the 200m world titles last year in Daegu, South Korea, were named Jamaica's top sportsman and sports-woman of 2011.

Sprint superstar Bolt had been overlooked for the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association's top athlete award, which went to 100m world champion Yohan Blake.

In his short acceptance speech on Friday for the award given by the RJR Sports Foundation, Bolt responded to critics who predicted he and Blake wouldn't be able to work well together.

"We are good friends, and we will continue to make our country proud," Bolt said, while admitting there must be some rivalry.

Bolt also took the Icon award while Asafa Powell, one of seven male nominees, was given the People's Choice Award, for his victory at Jamaica's world championship trials in 2011.

On the women's side, Campbell-Brown was taking her third award for the 2011 season. She was also honoured by the JAAA and as the top woman athlete in Central America and the Caribbean by the sport's regional governing body.

She beat Stafanie Taylor, the International Cricket Council female player-of-the-year.

# Lanka pull one back



AFP, Kimberley

Sri Lanka celebrated a rare success Friday on a tour to South Africa with a five-wicket victory in the fourth one-day international.

Big knocks from captain Tillakaratne Dilshan (87), man-of-the-match Thisara Perera (69) and Dinesh Chandimal (59) lifted the visitors to 304-5 after the home side reached 299-7 with skipper AB de Villiers (96) to the fore.

After keeping close to the six-run-an-over target at the De Beers Diamond Oval for much of the innings, the Sri Lankan batsman hit out against a South African attack sorely missing rested fast bowler Dale Steyn.

Unfortunately, the win came too late for the tourists to affect the five-game series with the Proteas taking a winning 3-0 lead three days ago thanks to a four-run win in a rain-hit Bloemfontein contest.

But the outcome in this northern Cape city did emphasise the steady improvement of Sri Lanka after a nightmare opening match in which they were bowled for 43 to suffer a humiliating 258-run loss.

"This was a fantastic effort as we were hoping to restrict South Africa to 250 or 260 runs," said Dilshan, "And on a personal note it was nice getting a big score again."

Dilshan averaged a run a

ball in a 112-minute stand that included nine fours and two sixes while Perera was even quicker, taking just 44 balls with three fours and five sixes in his tally.

Chandimal may have struck only one six and one four and taken longer to compile his runs, but he was a steady mid-innings influence as South Africa desperately sought wickets.

Dilshan believes his side can win again Sunday at the Wanderers in Johannesburg amid Sri Lankan government calls for a probe into a "crisis situation" after series losses to England, Australia and Pakistan as well.

It has been a spectacular fall from grace for a team that finished runners-up to India last April in the World Cup and some players have complained of unpaid salaries while the cricket board wrestles with a 69-million-dollar debt.

After three consecutive wins since replacing Graeme Smith as one-day captain, De Villiers had his first taste of defeat and offered no excuses, only praise for the "gutsy" Sri Lankans, especially Perera.

The South Africa batsman-cum-wicketkeeper will take solace from his fine innings that was laced with eight fours and three sixes and ended when he became one of two Perera victims as the ball crashed into middle stump.

Another postive for the Proteas was a return to form by Smith (68), whose innings

blazed through for the loss of just six games against Portugal's Frederico Gil, but Gael Monfilis was ousted in five sets after an injury-hit struggle with Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin.

Fellow Frenchman Richard Gasquet also reached the fourth round and Spain's David Ferrer came through in three sets against Juan Ignacio Chela.

Nishikori, 22, beat France's Julien Benneteau in four sets to become the first Japanese man to reach the Australian Open round of 16 in the open era.

Meanwhile there were more fireworks as David Nalbandian hit out against his hefty 8,000-dollar fine for splashing water at an official following his stormy exit in the second round.

Nalbandian vehemently denied any wrongdoing, saying he was simply washing his hands in doping control, following an angry on-court confrontation over a rejected Hawk-Eye call in this week's loss to John Isner.

"Two injustices -- one inside and another one outside the court. I am going to appeal the sanction," he tweeted.

The Nalbandian row was another bad-tempered episode after Marcos Baghdatis mangled four racquets in a display of unbridled frustration which went viral on the Internet, and earned him a 1,250-dollar fine.

of six, 28 and two in the other matches had triggered a media and public outcry that forced De Villiers to come out in support of the opening bat.

### SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

Petersen c Tharanga b Herath	37
Smith c Dilshan b Malinga	68
De Villiers b Perera	96
Ingram lbw b Kulasekara	1
Duminy c Sangakkara b Perera	36
Du Plessis c Sangakkara b Herath	5
Parnell run out (Tharanga)	21
Peterson not out	23
Philander not out	2
Extras: (b-4, w-6)	10
Total: (for 7 wkts in 50 overs)	299
Fall of wickets: 1-84, 2-171, 3-172, 4-242, 5-250, 6-252, 7-289	
Did not bat: Morkel, Tsotsobe	
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>W</b> <b>R</b>
Malinga	10 0 57 1
Kulasekara	8 0 40 1
Senanayake	10 1 53 0
Perera	4 0 34 2
Mathews	1 0 6 0
Dilshan	8 0 60 0
Herath	9 0 45 2

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c De Villiers b Tsotsobe	6
Dilshan c Duminy b Tsotsobe	87
Sangakkara c Petersen b Peterson	32
Chandimal b Tsotsobe	59
Thirimanne c Duminy b Philander	13
Perera not out	69
Mathews not out	21
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-6, nb-2)	17
Total: (for 5 wkts in 48.4 overs)	304
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-100, 3-168, 4-194, 5-246	
Did not bat: Kulasekara, Malinga, Herath, Senanayake	

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>W</b> <b>R</b>
Morkel	8 0 43 0
Tsotsobe	10 0 51 3
Philander	6 0 39 1
Parnell	9 0 52 0
Duminy	4.4 0 37 0
Peterson	6 0 47 1

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Persia, now

5 Provo's place

9 "Casa-blanca"

12 Missile shelter

13 Scruff

14 Census statistic

15 Theater box

16 Distort

17 Decay

18 List-ending abbr.

19 Eterne

20 Lofty

21 Civil War faction (Abbr.)

23 Bill's partner

25 Flinch

28 To the skies

32 Go in search of prey

33 Like some seals

34 1991 movie, "Mississippi —"

36 Nab

37 Catcher's place?

38 Bankroll

39 Embellish richly

42 Bleacher-ite's cry

44 Information

48 Raw rock

49 Henry —

50 Pre-diploma hurdle

51 Yang counter-part

52 Count counter-part

53 Sax type

54 Donkey

55 Differently

56 Capone foe

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

22 Foolish

24 "Fidelio" is one

25 Spinning stat

26 Detergent brand

27 Secant's reciprocal (Abbr.)

29 Exist

30 In medias —

31 Banned pesticide

35 Antenna

36 For some time

39 "The Naked Maja" painter

40 Eye part

41 Eye part

43 Ostentatious display

45 Wheel-base terminus

46 Body art, familiarly

47 Singer