

# Star SPORT

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Maria won't quiet down

Notoriously noisy Maria Sharapova slapped down questions over her loud shrieking Wednesday after she was singled out for criticism during a push for quieter women's tennis at the Australian Open. Sharapova, described by rival player Agnieszka Radwanska as "just too loud", told a questioner that "no one important enough" had told her to be quiet. "You've obviously asked me this question before," Sharapova said. "I've heard it a few times over my career. You've watched me grow up, you've watched me play tennis. "I've been the same over the course of my career."

-AFP



## Jahurul best of the day



SPORTS REPORTER

The impressive Jahurul Islam stroked his second hundred after Shakib Al Hasan's four-wicket haul as Victoria Sporting Club notched an emphatic eight wicket victory against Prime Doleshwar to continue their winning spree in the Premier Division Cricket League at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Centuries seemed to be the theme of the day as Pakistani Rifat Ullah slammed a hundred for Kalabagan, which was followed by a five-wicket haul by pacer Shahadat Hossain. Their combined efforts, however, were not good enough for the club to secure their second win in seven matches as Shamsur Rahman took up the challenge with a hundred of his own to ensure a three-wicket victory for

Sheikh Jamal at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Away at BKSP, Brothers Union registered their second win with a 66-run victory against the winless Surjo Tarun.

With their sixth win in seven games, Victoria lined up with leaders Old DOHS and Mohammedan Sporting Club, joining them on 12 points each while Sheikh Jamal's fourth win kept them in sixth place.

**VICTORIA-PRIME DOLESHWAR** Jahurul, so far the second highest run-getter, continued his good form, reinforcing his claim to regain a national team spot for the upcoming Asia Cup. The right-hander smashed an unbeaten run-a-ball 131 that saw nine sweetly timed boundaries and four sixes as Victoria scored 220 for two chasing Prime Doleshwar's 217-7.

Victoria got off to a forlorn start losing the dashing Tamim Iqbal for a second-ball duck but Jahurul joined

Asif Zakir to steady the ship associating 64 runs for the second wicket before Zakir was dismissed for 22 runs.

The wicketkeeper-batsman Jahurul then built a 156-run undefeated third wicket stand with Kamran Sajid, who finished not out on 60, to ensure the easy sail.

Earlier Prime Doleshwar recovered from three for 42 to put up a decent total thanks to a 101-run fourth-wicket partnership between Shahriar Nafees and Manvinder Singh. Nafees hit 77 and Manvinder added 51.

Left-arm spinners Shakib and Mosharraf Hossain shared seven wickets.

**SHEIKH JAMAL-KALABAGAN** Kalabagan set up a challenging total courtesy of a hundred from Rifat Ullah, who scored 101 runs off 115 balls with the help of ten fours and two sixes.

Then it was Arafat Salahuddin who helped his side cross the 250-run mark

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Sheikh Jamal batsman Shamsur Rahman (L) is embraced by his captain Mushfiqur Rahim after scoring a match-winning hundred in the Premier Cricket League match against Kalabagan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Open's hottest day today

AP, Melbourne



Australian Open.

He leads the top four men in tennis into the semis at Melbourne Park -- Djokovic against No. 4 Andy Murray, who won his quarterfinal match earlier Wednesday 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 over Kei Nishikori of Japan.

On Thursday, No. 2 Rafael Nadal plays No. 3 Roger Federer, the first time the two former top-ranked stars have met in a semifinal since the 2005 French Open.

It marks only the third time that the top four seeds have advanced to the semis at the Australian Open -- previously it was in 1988 and 2005. It was also the 14th time at all Grand Slams since the Open Era began in

1968, but it has happened in three of the last four -- after the US Open and French Open last year.

Djokovic rubbed the back of his upper left leg on several occasions, looked on the verge of being physically sick in the second set and buried his head in towels several times during breaks. Late in the third set, a tired-looking Djokovic sat down on a linesman's chair during a line-call video challenge by Ferrer.

"I was lucky to get out of the second set, it was a big mental advantage to get two sets up," Djokovic said.

The Nadal-Federer semifinal match-up has been rarely possible because the pair held the top two spots for most of the time between 2005 and 2010, meaning they could only meet in the finals after being placed in opposite sides of the draw.

Djokovic said he'd be watching the Nadal and Federer match like any tennis fan.

Murray, for his part, is also surprised to be not facing Nadal in the semifinals.

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## Under-18 cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Tariqul Islam slammed 128 as BKSP took a handsome lead against Barisal Division on the second day of the three-day match of the National Under-18 Cricket Competition at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

BKSP scored 321 while Barisal, who made 219 in their first innings, reached 38 for two in their second innings before stumps were drawn.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, Rabbi hit 83 and Shariful was not out on 53 as Chittagong bounced back in their second innings against Dhaka Metro to score 247 for four. Chittagong were

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Petra Kvitova of Czech Republic is pumped up after winning a point during her Australian Open quarterfinal victory over Italian Sara Errani in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## New order here to stay

ANISUR RAHMAN



When 10 of the national players left Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club before the start of the season, not many people would have bet on them winning the season's curtain-raising Federation Cup. But the Dhanmondi Club silenced the doubters and reaped the reward for three months' hard work to upstage favourites Abahani and Muktiyoddha on way to lifting the title.

What was more heartening about the triumph is that it was a campaign free from the stigma of match-fixing, a stigma that has haunted the club since their maiden triumph in the professional league last season.

So the club had sweet cause for celebration and they did so by having sweetmeats and lunch together at the club tent, which has been decked up with decorative lights.

The club rewarded the triumphant members of the club with a bonus of Tk 10 lakh. The festive mood was dampened a little though, as a few of the over-enthusiastic players got into slight scuffles while celebrating with the trophy.

But the coach Saiful Bari Titu and captain Aminul Haque are having none of that over-enthusiasm as they know that the challenge of retaining the professional league title will not be an easy one.

"The league is going to be a tough one for everyone and we have already shifted our focus to the league which is the main challenge. Apart from us, (Sheikh Jamal), Abahani, Muktiyoddha, Sheikh Russel and Mohammedan, we have to count BJMC too as title contenders," said Titu.

Explaining the components of their success, Aminul said, "We had started our

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## Sheltech win against BJMC

SPORTS REPORTER

Sheltech posted their third straight victory in the Walton Women's Corporate Football League when they handed a 2-0 defeat to Team BJMC in their last group match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The encounter was virtually a dress-rehearsal for the final as both sides have already booked their place for the title decider which will be played on Friday.

The third straight victory meant Sheltech topped the points table while Team BJMC ended the group stage

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## BPL tickets go on sale today

SPORTS REPORTER



The tickets for the money-spinning Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 will be available at twenty designated branches of Dhaka Bank across the country from January 30.

The online ticket sale through www.easy.com.bd will however start from today.

Shihab Trading Company, who brought the ticket-selling and distribution rights for Tk 45 crore, announced the ticket rates at a press conference yesterday. Eight matches from February 18 to February 22 will be held at the Zohur Ahmed

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15 days to go...

Starts from 10 February 2012

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