

# Star SPORT

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

## Bullet sent to Ferdinand

British police revealed on Friday that they are investigating after a bullet was reportedly posted to QPR centre-back Anton Ferdinand.

"We are investigating an allegation of malicious communication received today at QPR FC," said the Metropolitan Police in a statement.

Police would not confirm what was in the letter, which arrived at QPR's training ground on Friday, but local newspaper The Fulham Chronicle reported that it contained a bullet. Chelsea captain John Terry was charged with racially abusing Ferdinand during the Premier League game between the sides in October.



## Vics catch up with DOHS

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club kept up the pressure on leaders Old DOHS in the Dhaka Premier League through a four-wicket win over Surjo Torun at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The Shakib Al Hasan-led side are also on 12 points now after eight games, level with the table-toppers.

Sheikh Jamal have all but confirmed their Super League place through their eight-wicket win over Cricket Coaching School while Prime Doleshwar are closing in on the top six after a 3-wicket victory over Kalabagan Krira Chakra at the BKSP in Savar.

### SURJO TORUN-VICTORIA

It threatened to be the Raja Ali show as the all-rounder took Surjo Torun to the safety of 209-7 in 50 overs after they had slipped to 50 for three.

The Pakistan recruit added 107 with Bilal Khiljee for the fourth wicket, Raja making 94 and being dismissed in the final over. He struck seven boundaries and two sixes during his 108-ball effort.

Then with his left-arm spin, Raja removed opener Shakib and also took out form batsman Jahurul Islam early in the piece. But even his eventual four-wicket haul wasn't enough as Tamim Iqbal then took the game away from the

troubled and winless Surjo Torun.

The left-hander struck eleven boundaries in his 112-ball 85 while Kamran Sajid chipped in with an unbeaten 73 off 107 balls.

For Victoria earlier, left-arm spinner Mosharrif Hossain Rubel took five wickets for 53 runs.

### JAMAL-CCS

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club

marched past another neighbouring club, this time crushing the Kalabagan-based CCS at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Batting first, CCS were bowled out for 199 runs in 46.5 overs with Amit Mazumder, the Ranji Trophy stalwart, scoring 59 and Rokibul Hasan 51. They were stopped in their tracks by Arafat

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Victoria batsman Tamim Iqbal cuts during his 85 against Surjo Torun in the Dhaka Premier League in Fatullah yesterday.

## AZARENKA

### tennis's new queen

AFP, Melbourne



Belarus's Victoria Azarenka swept imperiously to her first Grand Slam title and the world number one ranking Saturday when she demolished Maria Sharapova in the Australian Open final.

The 22-year-old, playing her first major title match, made light of the occasion and her illustrious opponent as she hammered the Russian former champion 6-3, 6-0 in just 82 minutes.

Azarenka appeared on court in a yellow hoodie and listening to her MP3 player, and after being broken in the first game she was quickly into the rhythm of a match set

to both players' notoriously loud shrieks.

After going 0-2 down in the first set, she stepped forward to claim 12 of the next 13 games against Sharapova, who was powerless to stop the onslaught despite her three major trophies, including the 2008 Melbourne title.

The third seed, who now succeeds Caroline Wozniacki as the new women's number one, was equally cool afterwards as she lifted the Daphne Ackhurst Cup and dutifully thanked her grandmother in her acceptance speech without tears.

"I can't wait to be back next year, I've had an amazing month in Australia. It's a dream true," said Azarenka.

Her win highlights a shake-up in women's tennis after

Wozniacki's departure from the number one ranking and a re-shuffling of the top 10, plus defeats for 2011 champion Kim Clijsters and five-time winner Serena Williams.

In the new rankings to be released on Monday, Czech player Petra Kvitova will be second behind Azarenka with Sharapova third and Wozniacki fourth, while China's Li Na falls to ninth.

"As in any sport you have your good days, you have your tough days and you have days where things just don't work out. Today Victoria was just too good," Sharapova said.

"It all comes down to the last two athletes, winner takes it all after all the players in the draw. I've had great wins here and I've had tough losses but

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

## Rehman routs Eng

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Left-arm spinner Abdul Rehman took a career best 6-25 to help Pakistan humble England by 72 runs in the second Test here on Saturday, to give them an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The 31-year-old twice took two wickets in successive overs to dent England's chase after they were set a 145-run target on a weary fourth day Abu Dhabi Stadium pitch, bowling them out for 72 -- their lowest against Pakistan in all Tests.

Rehman's effort overshadowed Monty Panesar's 6-62, in his first Test for 30 months, which finished Pakistan's second innings at 214 in the morning.

This is England's first series defeat after being unbeaten in their previous nine since their loss to the West Indies in early 2009 -- a sequence which saw them rise to world number one in the Test rankings in August last year.

Pakistan won the first Test in Dubai by ten wickets. The third Test will also be played in Dubai from February 3.

Skipper Misbahul Haq said Pakistan wanted to make a match out of it after setting a tricky target.

"We knew that it would be difficult so we wanted to make a match out of it," said Misbah, who has now won eight Tests with one defeat since taking over in October 2010. "Our bowlers led by Rehman responded well

and this is a great win."

Strauss showed his disappointment at the woeful effort.

"It's pretty disappointing," said Strauss, whose side last lost two Tests in a row against South Africa in July 2008.

"We must acknowledge how well Pakistan bowled and they thoroughly deserved the series win."

Rehman was ably assisted by off-spinners Saeed Ajmal (3-22) and Mohammad Hafeez (1-11) in a match which saw spinners dominate from the first day.

England lost their top four batsmen in the space of just 37 balls after an extra cautious start on a difficult pitch.

England captain Andrew Strauss topscored with 32 before he became one of Rehman's victims during his maiden five-wicket haul.

In the penultimate over before tea, Rehman trapped Kevin Pietersen (one) and two balls later bowled Eoin Morgan (nought) to raise hopes of an unlikely win for Pakistan.

Sensing they could only upset their rivals through early wickets, Pakistan opened the bowling with off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez who responded well by catching Alastair Cook (seven) off his own bowling after England had edged cautiously to 21 by the 15th over.

Bell, promoted to number three after Jonathan Trott was unwell, was all at sea against master spinner Ajmal and his tentative push went through his legs to hit the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

## Under-19s go 3-1 up

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19s have taken a 3-1 lead over their English counterparts after a four-wicket win at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium yesterday.

The win was fashioned by pacer Taskin Ahmed and off-spinner Mosaddek Hossain, both picking up four-wicket hauls, as England were shot out for 168 in 45.4 overs.

Aneesh Kapil made 48 off 78 balls with the help of three boundaries while Craig Overton contributed with 36. The pair added 63 for the sixth wicket after the visitors were reeling at 68 for five in the 21st over.

Later, Salman Hossain's 59 guided the Under-19s to victory despite three wickets each by paceman Brett Hutton and off-spinner Sam Wood. The Barisal-born Salman struck nine boundaries in his 89-ball innings.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Rubel and Nuruzzaman will replace Anamul Haque and this game's man-of-the-match Taskin for the fifth match on January 30.



Abdur Rehman (C) and Saeed Ajmal (R) start celebrating Pakistan's series victory after winning the second Test against England at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Australian Open women's singles champion Victoria Azarenka holds the trophy after her victory in straight sets over Maria Sharapova in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Nadal wants revenge

AFP, Melbourne



Serbia's Novak Djokovic can Sunday seal his fourth Grand Slam in five and stamp his authority on the new tennis season, but blocking his way to the Australian Open title is a revenge-hungry Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic replaced Nadal as world number one after he beat him in last year's Wimbledon final, and he defeated the Spaniard again in the US Open decider as he took the season by storm.

Those two victories were among six consecutive wins over Nadal -- all in finals -- during one of the greatest campaigns in tennis history which included the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open titles.

The defending champion, who reached the final in Melbourne after five gruelling sets against Britain's Andy Murray late on Friday, is expecting another tough,

physical battle against second-seeded Nadal.

"I think that's going to be crucial, you know, for me to recover and to be able to perform my best, because Rafa is fit. He's been playing well. He had an extra day. He definitely wants to win this title," Djokovic said.

The 24-year-old, chasing his third Australian Open title after wins in 2008 and 2011, and his fifth Grand Slam overall, admits he may have an advantage over the 10-time major winner after his stunning record against him last year.

"I maybe have a mental edge because I've won six finals the five or six times we played in 2011 and I've had lots of success against him," he said.

"On the other hand, it's a new year. It's a new challenge. It's a different situation. As I said, he has maybe a day advantage over me for recovery and for getting ready for the finals."

Djokovic described Nadal's comeback from a set down to beat Roger Federer

in his semifinal as an "incredible effort". The Spaniard wore down the Swiss after losing the first set to once again prove his Grand Slam nemesis.

"That's why he's a champion. That's why he's one of the best players to ever play this game. He's never giving up. He has a fighting spirit. He has very few weaknesses," said the top seed.

## BCB AGM delayed

SPORTS REPORTER

The AGM of the Bangladesh Cricket Board has been deferred to March 1.

It was supposed to be held on February 7-8.

The demise of Manzur Ahmed, the erstwhile chief executive officer, and the demanding Bangladesh Premier League are the reasons cited for the delay.

BPL 12 days to go... Starts from 10 February 2012