

## Dravid nominated for Khel Ratna

Rahul Dravid has been recommended by the Board of Control for Cricket in India for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, India's highest honour in sports. The board has also decided to nominate all-rounder Yuvraj Singh for the Arjuna Award, an honour given by the Indian government to recognise achievements in sports.

"We will be forwarding the names of Rahul Dravid for Khel Ratna Award and Yuvraj Singh for the Arjuna Award next week [to the government]," BCCI's chief administrative officer Ratnakar Shetty



## BCB still in dark about SLPL



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is still in dark about five national cricketers who signed contracts for taking part in the Sri Lankan Premier Cricket League (SLPL) which starts on August 10.

National team's captain Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Nasir Hossain and Elias Sunny were selected by three of the seven franchises of the SLPL, but Bangladesh's cricket governing body was not aware of it, as the SLC has not sent any documents to BCB regarding this matter.

"We did not get any information from the players about their participation in the SLPL and we came to know it only from the media," Nizamuddin Chowdhury, acting chief executive officer of the BCB, told reporters yesterday.

"We are not against our players participating in a foreign league but they should remember that they are contracted players of BCB and must follow some rules, which they did not do in this case," said Chowdhury.

Asked whether they would prefer to take any action for breaching the contracts, Chowdhury said that cricket operation would look into the matter and if there was any recommendation then the matter would be referred to the disciplinary committee.

However, Mushfiqur Rahim regretted the mistake and held the players' agents responsible.

"I regret the mistake but I assume that the mistake was not only on my part. It was rather a mistake of the agent through whom we are dealing on the matter. The agent is supposed to communicate with the board," Mushfiq told reporters.

"We thought that the BCB is well aware of everything regarding our participation in the SLPL," said Mushfiq. "Now our participation in SLPL depends on the decision of the BCB."



BRITAIN'S PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE! Swiss superstar Roger Federer shows off the Wimbledon men's singles trophy after beating Andy Murray of Great Britain in the final at the All England Club in London yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL Women's league from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Women's Football Championship gets underway from tomorrow across the country under the new name of National Women's Super League following a directive from FIFA.

A total of 36 teams -- 34 district football associations, one service team and one university -- split into seven groups, will play the round-robin matches and the top team from each group will join last year's national league champions Ansar & VDP in the eight-team finals.

BFF Women's Committee chairman Sirajul Islam Bachchu disclosed such at a press conference at the BFF House where deputy secretary Mahfuza Akter and local sponsor KFC area manager Tanvir Kaiser were present.

"Last year we held the Women's Super League with eight teams but this time to



All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan plays the pull-shot on way to hammering 97 off 41 balls for Bangladesh national team during the T20 practice match against Bangladesh A at the Cricket Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Fabulous Fed denies Britain

AFP/AP, London



Roger Federer won a record-equalling seventh Wimbledon title and 17th Grand Slam crown Sunday, shattering tearful Andy Murray's dream of ending Britain's 76-year wait for an All England Club men's champion.

Federer, playing in his eighth Wimbledon final and 24th Grand Slam championship match, won 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 to join Pete Sampras and William Renshaw as a seven-time champion. Renshaw, an 1880s player, did it at a time when the defending champion was given a bye into the following year's final.

The Swiss great, who has also regained the world number one ranking, is just the third man over 30 to win Wimbledon following Rod Laver in 1969 and Arthur Ashe in 1975.

Murray, 25, bidding to be the first British man since Fred Perry in 1936 to win Wimbledon, has now lost all four Grand Slam finals in which he has appeared.

"It equals me with Pete Sampras, who's my hero, so it feels amazing," said Federer, whose last Wimbledon title was in 2009 and was without a major since the 2010 Australian Open.

"It feels great being back here as

the winner. It feels like it's never left me. I think I played some of my best tennis in the last couple of matches. I couldn't be more happy."

On getting back to the world number one, Federer, who now has 75 titles, added: "I never stopped believing."

Murray, the first British man to reach a Wimbledon final since Bunny Austin in 1938, broke down in tears at the closing ceremony, delivering his speech but faltering on numerous occasions.

"I'm getting closer," said an emotional Murray, who had to gather himself before continuing.

"I'm going to try this but it won't be easy. Firstly I'd like to congratulate Roger. I was asked the other day if this is my best chance? Roger's 30. He's not bad for a 30-year-old."

"I can't look at you guys [in the box] or I'll start crying again... we did a great job so thank you."

In the opening exchanges of this eagerly-anticipated final, Murray was the stronger player, making the most of his five-year advantage as Federer looked fatigued and ragged.

However, once the 80-million-pound roof was shut in the early stages of the third set, as torrential rain bucketed down outside, the momentum shifted and Federer stormed into the ascendancy.

With the Duchess of Cambridge, sister Pippa Middleton, Australian great Rod Laver, British Prime Minister David Cameron and even the Beckhams looking on from the Royal Box, it was the Briton who started the stronger.

Murray, defeated by Federer in the 2008 US Open and 2010 Australian Open finals without winning a set, broke in the first game when an uncharacteristic nervy Swiss ballooned a drive volley and that break was backed up by a hold.

Federer held and retrieved the break, shrugging off the boozy call of "I love you, Roger" from a male fan in the 15,000 crowd.

Murray survived two break points in the eighth game and made the most of the reprieve when he broke to lead 5-4 as Federer netted a forehand having had to take evasive action to avoid a Murray forehand missile.

The Scot then wrapped up the opener on an unreturned serve -- it was the first set Murray had won in his three Grand Slam finals, with Federer's 16 unforced errors to his opponent's five proving key.

Murray saved a break point in the second game of the second set while Federer, the first 30-year-old in the final since Jimmy Connors in 1984, saved two in the fifth.

The two men served a pair of love

games as Federer led 4-3 while Murray wasted two break points in the ninth game as the six-time champion clung on for a 5-4 advantage.

The Briton again served a love game for 5-5.

But Federer held and suddenly carved out a set point with a magical drop volley in the 12th game which caused Murray to push a lob long.

Another immaculate drop volley off his toes gave him the set 7-5.

At 1-1 and 40-0 for Federer in the third, heavy rain drove the players off court for 40 minutes and the roof was closed.

In a dramatic sixth game, which lasted 20 minutes and went to 10 deuces, Murray took three tumbles to the ground, surrendered a 40-0 lead and Federer broke on a sixth break point for a 4-2 lead.

A ninth ace in the contest in the ninth game gave Federer the set 6-3 and a two sets to one lead.

Suddenly, the life and vibrancy seeped out of Murray.

He felt his lower back, Victoria Beckham looked even more sombre, and the Scot slipped 3-2 down off a killer, crosscourt backhand drive.

A 12th ace in the 10th game took Federer to two match points, the first of which was saved but Murray went wide on a forehand to hand

## Easy win for Tigers in practice T20



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh National team defeated the Bangladesh A team by 93 runs in the first of two practice matches that took place at the Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday.

The national team opted to bat first at winning the toss and made the most of short boundaries of the practice ground as they put on 273 runs in 20 overs. The tiny square boundaries helped opener Jahurul Islam score a blistering knock of 72 off 38 deliveries which consisted of 7 boundaries and 5 sixes.

World's best all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan carried the innings from there, top scoring with 97 off 41 deliveries (nine 4s and eight 6s) while skipper Mushfiqur Rahim added the finishing touches with a hurricane 62 off just

25 ball that featured four boundaries and six over-boundaries.

The A team bowlers had a torrid time restricting the national team batsmen as everyone of them went for 10 or more runs an over. Dollar Mahmud was the most successful bowler for A team with figures of 4-0-58-2.

The A team's never looked like challenging with only the opener Imrul Kayes (32), Nayeem Islam (40) and skipper Farhad Reza (45) making notable contributions.

Elias Sunny was the most successful bowler for the national team with figures of 3-0-48-2 while Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad and Abul Hossain bowled economical spells taking a wicket a piece.

The second practice T20 match between the two teams got suspended due to rain after 19 overs of the first innings was played.

Bangladesh A won the toss and decided to

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Top three winners of the Pepsi Football Remix Festival are seen with the guests during the gala event at a city hotel on Saturday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Pepsi Football Remix finds top three

SPORTS REPORTER

The gala event of Pepsi Football Remix Festival took place on July 7 at a club in Gulshan, Dhaka. Out of top 50 goal scorers, three came out on top to win the grand prize, a chance to party in Ibiza with world renowned DJ Calvin Harris. The top three were Ashiqul Islam, Saiful Islam Heera and Ashik Rahman Khan.

The Pepsi Remix festival was jam packed with fun and excitement; games and competitions bringing the event to fever pitch. Apart from the three, the remaining eight contestants from the last 11 in the final round

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