



Chess is a passion for an ageless Rani Hamid. Here she competes in the 38th National Chess B Championship with a host of young players at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Japan-SAARC football meet this October

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take part in the Japan-SAARC U-14 Football Exchange Programme to be held in the Far Eastern country over October 7-20.

In a quest to strengthen the bond with the South Asian nations, who came forward to help Japan during its natural calamities, they are going to host a football tournament with the participation of eight SAARC countries as a part of their preparation for next year's AFC U-14 Football Festival, informed BFF's acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

To select the U-14 squad, the BFF development committee will run a trial on September 21 and 23.

## Golf team leaves for Bhutan today

SPORTS REPORTER

A three-member Bangladesh Golf team will leave here for Bhutan today to take part in the Bhutan Amateur Open, which will get underway from Thursday.

Major (retd) Mohammad Arman Ali Bhuiyan will accompany three golfers - Mohammad Dul Hossain, Mohammad Sobhan and Mohammad Sagar, said a ISPR press release yesterday.

Professional golfer Shakhat Hossain Sohel also is also expected to leave here today for India to take part in four tournaments PGTI Players Championship, Indian Oil XtraPremium Masters and Mumbai Open and Delhi Bilt Open.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh National team comprising of Mohammad Dul Hossain and Mohammad Rubel became runners-up in the recently concluded 125th Sri Lanka Amateur Tournament and Dul finished second in the individual event.

## Sanath sees three-way battle!

AFP, Colombo

Former explosive batsman Sanath Jayasuriya believes India, Pakistan or Sri Lanka have the best chance of winning this year's Twenty20 World Cup, starting from September 18.

Jayasuriya believes the spin friendly conditions in the sub continent would suit these three teams, and added India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which is also the host nation, boast of good T20 teams.

"It's a tough tournament to predict as there are several teams who if they find their rhythm and get their tactics right could ultimately win the competition," Jayasuriya said in an exclusive interview with Pakpassion.net.

## Javed advises Sachin to quit at the top

### Cricket

ANI, Colombo

Legendary Pakistani batsman Javed Miandad on Sunday said that top players, like Sachin Tendulkar, must retire when they are on top of their game.

Talking exclusively to ANI here, Miandad was replying specifically on the issue of Tendulkar's retirement.

"I don't want to ask him to retire. Nobody can force him or push him. But if you ask me as a cricketer, he has played enough cricket. Maybe he'll play for another 4 or 6 months. This kind of decision is entirely up to the player. It's better to leave cricket when you are wanted, but don't leave when people say thank God he is gone. Great players should leave when they are on top, when they're wanted. People are talking about him all the time; I don't know what to say. My advice to him as a cricketer is that top cricketers should leave when they are on top," he said.

Miandad expressed happiness on resumption of bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan, and said that both the neighbours should play more often for mutual benefit.

I am very pleased to see India and Pakistan starting their cricket. We don't mind playing cricket in India. It is nice to see these two countries starting their cricket. We like to continue with it. Let's try and come closer. We should not play once a while, we should play regularly. It's good for both the countries," he added.

Miandad revealed that Pakistani side is "very relaxed" ahead of its practice game against India on Monday, and added that he wishes for an India-Pak final.

"Pakistan team is very relaxed. The pressure is coming not from the inside, but from the outside. Winning and losing is part of the game. The more matches we play, this kind of pressure would not arise. I wish both the teams play T20 final. Tomorrow, it's not a matter of winning or losing. They [Pakistan] should look for the tournament ahead," he said.

Miandad refrained from picking any favourites to win the competition, saying, "It's not that easy to tell. Every team knows to play this kind of cricket. In this kind of competition, you need two good players."

India won its first warm up game, against Sri Lanka, on Saturday, and are scheduled to lock horns with Pakistan in another practice game tomorrow.

## Kamran kills India

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seeded to meet in the Super Eights round in Colombo on September 30.

In other matches, England beat Australia by nine runs, the West Indies slammed Afghanistan by eight wickets and South Africa overcame New Zealand by nine runs.

Reigning champions England piled up 172-6 after being sent in to bat, with opener Alex Hales top-scoring with 52 off 38 balls. Luke Wright hit a 29-ball 35 and Eoin Morgan scored a brisk 30 from 16 balls.

Australia managed only 163-6 in reply against the tight England bowling despite a polished 71 off 51 balls from Michael Hussey, who hit five sixes.

England, who take on Afghanistan in their opening match in Colombo on Friday, play another practice match

against Pakistan on Wednesday.

West Indies opener Chris Gayle warmed up for the tournament with an unbeaten 65 off 48 balls as the West Indies eased past Afghanistan's modest 122-7 in the 16th over.

New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor hammered seven sixes in an unbeaten 75 from 42 balls, but could not prevent South Africa from carving out a nine-run victory.

South Africa rode on captain AB de Villiers's 54 to make 186-6 before four wickets from Dale Steyn restricted the Black Caps to 177-8.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 185-3 in 20 overs (Kohli 75 not out, R Sharma 56, Sehwag 26; Ajmal 2-22)

PAKISTAN: 186-5 in 19.1 overs (K Akmal 92 not out, Malik 37 not out; Ashwin 4-23)

Result: Pakistan won by five wickets.

ENGLAND: 172-6 in 20 overs (Hales 52, Wright 35, Morgan 30; Hogg 2-39, Starc 2-32)

AUSTRALIA: 163-6 in 20 overs (Watson 37, M Hussey 71; Finn 2-26)

Result: England won by nine runs.

SOUTH AFRICA: 186-6 in 20 overs (De Villiers 54, Duminy 30, Behardien 24 not out; Milne 2-26, Franklin 2-31)

NEW ZEALAND: 177-8 in 20 overs (Taylor 75, Nicol 37; Steyn 4-25)

Result: South Africa won by nine runs.

AFGHANISTAN: 122-7 (Stanikzai 53; Edwards 3-24, Narine 2-23)

WEST INDIES: 125-2 in 15.5 overs (Gayle 65 not out; Nabi 2-29)

Result: West Indies won by eight wickets.

## Bangladesh to end

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that tournament, Nepal held hosts and eventual champions India to a draw and showed plenty of improvement. Even the Nepal U-22 team have made giant strides and recently humiliated their Bangladeshi counterparts with a 4-0 defeat in the AFC U-22 Asia Cup earlier this year.

Bangladesh then, face a strong challenge against a Nepal side who are not only speedy and quick but also know how to take advantage of set-pieces. Both the Bangladeshi senior side and junior side faced the consequences of this, conceding all of their goals to Nepal from set-pieces in both the SAFF Championship and AFCU-22 Asia Cup.

The statistics though, are still in favour of Bangladesh as they have posted nine including six straight victories (from 1995 to 2005) in 16 matches they played against Nepal. As such, a good start in today's game will boost the booters for the second and final friendly on September 20.

## 'This should

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"Practice games are important but they are not that important that you should start feeling demoralised over a loss in such games. These matches allow you to assess where you are at individually and as a team and you work on the findings," he added.

Shakib was happy with the way he batted in the match as well as with his form but he felt that some fine tuning is required with some individual players before the group matches against New Zealand and Pakistan, and despite the defeat he was optimistic about their chances of qualifying for the second round of the tournament.

I think there are certain individual fine tuning that is required. The atmosphere will be different and you have to be totally switched on from the first ball. I am sure we will get there. There is a good chance that we will qualify for the next round if we win one game. We are taking it one match at a time," hoped Shakib, who will have to play a major role if his side want to make this campaign last beyond the first round.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES HP: 521-8 in 117 overs (Hope 214 not out, Fletcher 105, Lesters 97, Verasamy 42; Shaker 4-13, Apu 2-127, Dollar 6-62)

and Permaul Verasamy. The latter was bowled by Kamrul Islam at the fag end of the day.

Shakib Ahmed was the pick of the bowlers for the home-side as the two scalps in the day took increased his tally to four.

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## Eleven share lead in chess

SPORTS REPORTER  
Eleven players were jointly sharing the lead in the Access Group 38th National Chess B Championship at the end of third round matches at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room yesterday.

All eleven players recorded their third straight victory. They are IM Minhasuddin Ahmed Sagar, IM Abu Sufian Shakil, FM Taibor Rahman, FM Mehdi Hasan Partag, FM Mohammad Abdul Malek, Mahtabuddin Ahmed Robin, Hasan Emam, FM Mohammad Javed, Saiful Islam Chowdhury, Aminul Islam Polash and Delwar Hossain.

KLN ABAHANI'S second win

SPORTS REPORTER

## SL's biggest occasion

Take on Zimbabwe in the opener today

AFP, Hambantota

Hosts Sri Lanka will hope to make a brisk start to the World Twenty20 Tuesday as they open the country's biggest ever sports event with high hopes of claiming a second

global title.

In Hambantota, the home town of President Mahinda Rajapakse, Sri Lanka

should encounter few problems against minnows Zimbabwe as they raise the curtain on Twenty20 cricket's three-week, 12-nation, world championship.

Sri Lanka have yet to emulate their 50-

over World Cup victory in 1996, despite

reaching the final in 2007 and again last year.

They were World Twenty20 runners-up in

2009 and went out in the semifinals in 2010.

The tropical "Teardrop Island", torn by a

37-year ethnic conflict until hostilities were

declared over in 2009, has never held a tour-

nament on this scale, although it was a co-

host of the 1996 and 2011 World Cups.

Despite a fast and furious format which

makes predictions unwise, Mahela Jayawardene's team start as slight tourna-

ment favourites because of home advantage

and because they are known as a team for the

big occasion.

Along with newly crowned cricketer of

the year Kumar Sangakkara, Jayawardene

and Tillakaratne Dilshan will do damage

with the bat, while Sri Lanka can also call on

talented all-rounders Angelo Mathews and

Thisisara Perera.

Fast bowler Lasith Malinga and unortho-

dox spinner Ajantha Mendis complete a

formidable line-up which will also be fami-

liar with the varied conditions in the capital

Colombo, steamy hill town Pallekele and

coastal Hambantota.

In an open field, at least half of the teams

will consider themselves strong contend-

ers to lift the trophy in Colombo on October 7 --

and the others will be encouraged by the

tournament's reputation for surprises.

India, initially reluctant to embrace

cricket's newest format, won the inaugural

event in South Africa in 2007 under rookie

skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, after senior

pros Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and

Sourav Ganguly opted out.

It was in the same tournament that

Zimbabwe stunned Australia and

Bangladesh upset the West Indies. India

brushed aside England, South Africa,

Australia and defeated Pakistan in suc-

cessive games to grab the title.

Pakistan won the second edition in

England in 2009, a tournament that made a

stunning start when the Netherlands, a non

Test-playing nation, upset the hosts by four

wickets in front of a packed house at Lord's.

The 12 sides have been divided into four