

**Div I cricket**

SPORTS REPORTER

Mushfiqur Rahman slammed a hundred as Young Cricketers registered a comfortable seven-wicket victory against Biman in the First Division Relegation League match at BKSP yesterday.

In the day's other match, Surjo Torun Club outplayed Kathalbag Green Crescent Club by 100 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**SURJO TORUN CLUB:** 217 all out in 47.4 overs (Shakil Haider 67, Sadman Kabir 53; Mesbah Kabir 5-38, Minhaz Khan 3-36, Nirjon 1-34).

**KATHALBAG GREEN CRESCENT CLUB:** 117 all out in 39 overs (Khairul Islam 38, Mozahidul Islam 23; Arafat Hossain 3-17, Liton 2-23, Younus 2-30, Golam Kibria 2-37).

**Result:** Surjo Torun Club won by 100 runs.

**BIMAN:** 222 for 7 in 50 overs (Saif Mahmud 53, Mushfiqur Rahman 38, Rashedul Islam 31; Hafiz-Al-Hasan 3-55, Moniruddin Masud 1-27, Kazi Asif-Al-Hasan 1-19)

**YOUNG CRICKETERS:** 226 for 3 in 39.3 overs (Mushfiqur Rahman 101, Atikur Rahman 53, Moinuddin Rubel 47; Abdullah Mamun 1-3, Altaf Kamal 1-33, Masud 1-39).

**Result:** Young Cricketers won by seven wickets.

**Williamson wins it for the Kiwis**

AFP, Kimberley

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum on Tuesday acclaimed one of his country's finest one-day series wins -- and an innings by Kane Williamson which made victory possible over South Africa. Williamson hit 145 not out to set up a 27-run win for New Zealand in the second one-day international at the Diamond Oval.

It gave the tourists a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series and was a major turnaround for a team who were thrashed in both Test matches.

**Royals rule**

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over of the game after he was trapped in front by Shohag Gazi. Opener Lou Vincent, after the quiet initial period broke the shackles in the fifth over when he smacked 18 runs, off slow-left armer Bishawnath Halder. Vincent was eventually dismissed by Mohammad Nabi courtesy of a brilliant catch by Halder in the deep. Their other foreign batsmen, Travis Birt and Daniel Harris were dismissed cheaply and at the end of the 13th over Khulna were struggling at 87 for 4.

Ricki Wessels, who scored a quick-fire 63, brought about some respectability to the total as he smacked a series of boundaries in the last two overs to take the score past 140. Dirk Nannes and Shohag Gazi were the pick of the bowlers for Sylhet as they both ended with figures of 2 for 20. While Gazi got the crucial wickets of Shahriar Nafees and Birt, Nannes cleared the tail with some good death-bowling.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**KHULNA ROYAL BENGALS:** 145 for 7 (Vincent 59, Harris 15, Wessels 63 not out; Nannes 2-20, Gazi 2-20).

**SYLHET ROYALS:** 146 for 4 (Masakadza 52, Stirling 38, Mominul 14, Mushfiqur 19 not out; Nabil 2-23).

**Result:** Sylhet Royals won by six wickets.

**Man-of-the-match:** Hamilton Masakadza.



Sloane Stephens of USA (R) shakes hands with Serena Williams after defeating her more illustrious compatriot in the Australian Open quarterfinal in Melbourne on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

**Sloane slays Serena**

AFP, Melbourne

American teenager Sloane Stephens sent the Australian Open women's draw into disarray Wednesday when she dumped injury-hit hot favourite Serena Williams out of the quarterfinals.

Stephens, only 19 and without a tournament victory, held her nerve in almost unbearable tension at Rod Laver Arena to close out a 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 win after Williams needed treatment for back spasms.

Stephens, 19, regarded as Williams' successor as the force of women's tennis in the United States, now goes into a semifinal against world number one and defending champion Victoria Azarenka, who beat Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Williams, 31, had not been beaten since August and picked up titles at Wimbledon, the Olympics and the US Open last year, but she now sees her bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam falter at the first hurdle.

She also falls one short match of equalling her best-ever winning streak of

21 matches, and is denied the chance to become the oldest world number one since computer rankings were first devised in 1975.

But she said she was "almost relieved" her tournament was over after rolling her ankle just minutes into her first match in Melbourne, a problem which she believes had the knock-on effect of straining her back.

Williams won the first set but at 3-4 in the second, she pulled up with back spasms and later called for the trainer. As she served at half-pace, Stephens was eventually able to capitalise as she levelled at set each.

Williams recovered sufficiently to break in the tense decider but Stephens broke back and then broke again to claim the victory of her life.

In Thursday's semifinals Stephens will face top seed Azarenka, who came through a marathon, 1hr 17min opening set against resurgent Russian veteran Kuznetsova before completing her 7-5, 6-1 triumph in 1hr 47min.

**Aus level series**



AFP, Hobart

Player-of-the-match Phil Hughes hit his second one-day international century on Wednesday to pull Australia level after the fifth and final match of the series against Sri Lanka.

The diminutive left-hander cracked 138 off 154 balls to help Australia post a winning total of 247 for five after being put in to bat.

Hughes, who became the first Australian to score a century on his ODI debut in the first game in Melbourne, nonetheless admitted he found the going hard.

"I know if you do get in it's something I pride myself on, to get that three-figure mark," he said. "When I got to 50-60 I was finding it tough to score, but I got a few at the back end."

**SCOREBOARD**

AUSTRALIA				
Wade lbw Kulasekara	23	Doherty	8	1
Warner b Dilshan	10	Henriques	10	1
Hughes not out	138	Maxwell	2	0
Bailey c & b Perera	17			

D Hussey run out	34			
Maxwell c Thirimanne b Malinga	9			
Henriques not out	9			
Extras: (lb-2, w-5)	7			
Total: (For five wickets in 50 overs)	247			
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-37, 3-97, 4-195, 5-218				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dilshan	7	3	22	1
Kulasekara	10	1	57	1
Mathews	7	0	44	0
Malinga	10	1	49	1
Herath	10	2	34	0
Perera	6	0	39	1

SRI LANKA				
Jayawardene c Starc b Doherty	38			
Dilshan c Wade b Henriques	19			
Thirimanne c Hussey b Doherty	6			
Chandimal b Doherty	1			
Mathews c Bailey b Johnson	67			
Perera c Warner b Johnson	14			
J Mendis b Henriques	26			
Perera b Henriques	7			
Kulasekara not out	14			
Herath c Henriques b McKay	2			
Malinga c Johnson b McKay	2			
Extras: (lb-12, nb-1, w-6)	19			
Total: (All out in 48.3 overs)	215			
Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-62, 3-71, 4-77, 5-108, 6-187, 7-187, 8-195, 9-200				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McKay	9.3	0	51	2
Starc	9	0	48	0
Johnson	10	0	45	2
Doherty	8	1	21	3
Henriques	10	1	32	3
Maxwell	2	0	6	0

**Result:** Australia won by 32 runs and

**Rangpur ride out Sabbir**

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restored parity in the fifth over, hitting two fours and a six off Kevin O' Brien, but Razzak bowled Kapali in the next over before Amit Kumar had the dangerous Azhar Mahmood stumped in the ninth over. That brought Sabbir to the crease at 48 for four, and together with Hodge he added 559 runs in 5.5 overs before Hodge was caught off O' Brien for a 38-ball 58. Sabbir hit four boundaries and five sixes in his innings, but in the end Rangpur's superior discipline on the field won the day.

Earlier, Shamsur Rahman followed his 52 in the previous match with an entertaining 66. His opening stand with Imrul Kayes yielded 70 in the first eight overs and set the foundation for the team's highest score this season.

Shamsur smacked nine fours and two sixes in the 40 balls that he faced. The innings was an exhibition of the wide array of shot-making ability that the batsman possessed. The 12th over by Shafiu saw the batsman scoop the first ball behind the keeper, drive the next one through cover and pull the next one behind the bowler's head for three consecutive boundaries.

A string of boundaries from Niall O'Brien and Cameron Borgas helped Rangpur blast 58 off the last six overs and cross the 170-mark.

**India clinch**

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in place of Ajinkya Rahane. Sharma proved his class with some delightful shots to lay the foundation for the chase and his show will enhance his chances of cementing a place in the ODI team.

**SCOREBOARD**

ENGLAND				
Cook lbw b Ashwin	76			
Bell c Kumar b Ishant	10			
Pietersen b Ishant	76			
Morgan c Yuvraj b Ashwin	3			
Patel & b Jadeja	1			
Root not out	57			
Buttler c Yuvraj b Jadeja	14			
Bresnan c Yuvraj b Jadeja	0			
Tredwell not out	6			
Extras: (b-2, lb-8, w-4)	14			
Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs)	257			
Did not bat: Finn, Dernbach.				
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-132, 3-138, 4-142, 5-220, 6-241, 7-241.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	10	2	30	0
Shami	8	0	58	0
Ishant	10	2	47	2
Ashwin	10	0	63	2
Jadeja	10	2	39	3
Raina	2	0	10	0

INDIA				
Gambhir c Buttler b Bresnan	10			
Rohit lbw b Finn	83			
Kohli c & b Tredwell	26			
Yuvraj lbw b Tredwell	3			
Raina not out	89			
Dhoni c Morgan b Dernbach	19			
Jadeja not out	21			
Extras: (lb-2, w-5)	7			
Total: (For 5 wickets in 47.3 overs)	258			
Did not bat: Ashwin, Kumar, Ishant, Shami.				
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-72, 3-90, 4-158, 5-213.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Finn	10	1	39	1
Bresnan	10	1	59	1
Dernbach	9.3	0	59	1
Patel	3	0	21	0
Tredwell	10	0	54	2
Root	5	0	24	0

**Result:** India won by 5 wickets and lead

**Niaz finishes**

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emerged champion with nine points while GM Lu Shanglai of China became runner-up with same number of points.

GM Ziaur Rahman finished 23rd with 7.5 points as he beat Indian IM DP Singh in the last round.

Jamal Uddin earned six points, Kazi Taherul Islam achieved 5.5 points and SM Sharon collected five points.

**Maria focuses only on Li**

AFP, Melbourne

Record-breaking Maria Sharapova will hope to capitalise on Serena Williams's demise to snatch her fifth Grand Slam title -- but first she'll have to get past a determined Li Na in the semis.

The tall Russian was quickly installed as bookmakers' favourite after a limping Williams was upset by teenager Sloane Stephens, who will face 2012 champion Victoria Azarenka in the last four on Thursday.

Sharapova has been in terrifying form at the year's opening Grand Slam, running through five matches for the loss of just nine games, a new tournament record.

But Li is relaxed, fitter and perhaps steeled under new coach Carlos Rodriguez, and she can also draw on her 2011 performances, when she defeated the Russian at the French Open the way to becoming Asia's first Grand Slam champion.

**Corporate badminton from today**

SPORTS REPORTER

Shuttlers from seventeen corporate houses of the capital will battle for supremacy in the Ispahani Corporate Badminton Grand Slam 2013 which gets underway at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium today.

This tournament, first of its kind in the country, features five events -- men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

The details of the tournament were revealed at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. Bangladesh Badminton Federation president Rubaba Dowla, sponsors Ispahani Group's head of marketing & sales Ismail Hossain and co-sponsors Dell Bangladesh's CEO Sonia Bashir Kabir were present at the pre-3ss conference, among other guests.

The participating teams are -- Airtel-1, and Airtel-2, Ecom-Cotton, Beximco Pharma, Westin, Securex, Bando Design, Banglalink, Mutual Trust Bank, Ispahani, Holcim, Standard Chartered Bank, Qubee Team-1, Qubee Team-2, Pepsi, Eastern Bank Ltd, Bkash, ULab, Ibcs-Primax.

**Fed up against Murray**

AFP, Melbourne

Roger Federer passed a five-set test from Jo-Wilfried Tsonga Wednesday to set up an Australian Open semifinal with Andy Murray.

The great Swiss needed all his coolness and concentration as he was twice pegged back from a set lead before taking it 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 6-3, reaching his 33rd Grand Slam semifinal.

Facing Federer across the net on Friday will be Britain's US Open champion Andy Murray, who hit top gear in his 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win over unseeded Jeremy Chardy and is into the last four without dropping a set.

World number one Novak Djokovic, chasing the tournament's first title hat-trick of the professional era, plays indefatigable Spaniard David Ferrer on Thursday after all four top men's seeds reached the

Elsewhere, Murray finally reached his

peak performance as he impressively sent unseeded Frenchman Chardy spinning out.

Murray broke Chardy's service eight times and played a clean match with 32 winners against 20 unforced errors, as he extended his Grand Slam winning streak to 12 matches and reached his 12th major semifinal.

"Today was the best I've played. I've struggled in my last few rounds a little bit, my last opponent [Gilles Simon] was injured so it wasn't much of a match as he struggled physically," Murray said.

"Jeremy's had a great tournament, he's beat some top players so I needed to come out sharp and get off to a good start."

Friday's semi will be Murray's first Grand Slam meeting with Federer since last year's Wimbledon decider, when he wept freely in defeat. Murray gained some revenge shortly afterwards by beating Federer in the Olympic final.

**BOA decides on BD Games**

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday decided to host the Bangladesh Games in principle, but could not fix any time frame for the eighth edition of the Games which was last held in 2002.

The decision was taken in the first meeting of the newly-elected committee chaired by BOA president and Chief of Army Staff General Iqbal Karim. The members of the committee sat seven weeks after the election.

"There were a few things on the agenda which have been discussed in detail in the meeting where much importance was given on bringing back Bangladesh Games," said BOA secretary general Syed Shahed Reza after emerging from the five-hour long marathon meeting at the BOA Office yesterday.

"We have formed a sub-committee which will look after the matter of Bangladesh Games as we don't want to make any haste with the Games. We also need support from the government as well as sponsors for arranging the Games," said Shahed, who is currently Bangladesh's ambassador to Kuwait, effective till June this year.

However apart from staging the games, the committee could not come to any decision on other issues such as whether to continue the South Asian Games training, whether to send the team to the Islamic Games and Asian Youth Games and whether to host the Indo-Bangla Bangladesh Games as all of those depend on the financial guarantee from the government. It may be mentioned here that the BOA has Tk26 crore in deposits.

**Young guns**

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skipper Brad Hodge. "Hodge kept asking me to 'gift' him a 6 or a 4 time and again. It was quite fun batting alongside him."

While Sabbir did not think he would be promoted above the four foreign batsmen in the side, Shamsur believed that the performance of the local players will change the dynamics of this year's competition. "The local players didn't do too well last year, but this time they are outperforming many and I think this year will be a good one for us," he said.

**Transfer**

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Corporation Eleven. Arambagh KS, the bottom side of the nine-team table, also roped in a Nigerian midfielder named Atsafack Gerard Ledoux.

Sheikh Jamal, Team BJMC and Brothers Union were going through the pro-cedure of signing up players.



Organisers and sponsors of the Ispahani Corporate Badminton Grand Slam 2013, which gets underway at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium today, pose for a photograph during a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**  
1 Possess  
4 Hour-glass fill  
8 Frizzy hairstyle  
12 Witness  
13 Bas-soon's cousin  
14 Applaud  
15 Meadow  
16 Supreme  
18 Longtime talk-show legend  
20 Supporting  
21 Isinglass  
24 Apprehensive feeling  
28 Sun-shades  
32 Un-matched  
33 Historic time  
34 Sum  
36 Tavern  
37 Teen's facial woe  
39 Archetype  
41 Top  
43 Take the bus  
44 Knightly address  
46 Interior design

**DOWN**  
5 "The — Daba Honey-moon"  
6 Neither mate  
7 Un-hearing  
8 Oak nuts  
9 Winter ailment  
10 Operated  
11 Make up your mind  
17 Extinct bird  
19 Doctors' org.  
22 Hen pen  
23 Sacrifice site  
25 Asian desert  
26 Metal refuse  
27 Expression  
28 Carrots' partners, often  
29 St. Louis landmark  
30 Hindu royal ...  
31 ... and what she may wear  
35 They counter-act chutes  
38 Inferior substitute  
40 Fourth letter  
42 Twitch  
45 Actress Perلمان  
47 Upper-case, for short  
48 Hodge-podge  
49 Need for 13-Across  
50 Standard  
51 "The Greatest"  
52 Decay  
53 Ref  
54 Cravat

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16				17				
18		19				20					
		21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32			
33											