

# SPORT

## Sadat, Mathews save Brothers Union

SPORTS REPORTER



Tamim Iqbal's Brothers Union, Mahmudullah Riyad's Gazi Tank Cricketers and Enamul Haque Jr's Prime Bank Cricket Club won their respective matches in the third round of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday.

The Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium witnessed its first match of the league yesterday when Victoria Sporting Club took on Brothers, who rode on a 148-run partnership between Nazmus Sadat (82) and Angelo Mathews (56) to complete a six-wicket win.

Chasing a target of 214, Brothers slumped to 66 for four in 16.5 overs. Both Tamim (19) and Nafis Iqbal (21) failed to continue after getting starts. However, Mathews and Sadat's

148-run partnership off 162 balls for the fifth wicket helped them sail through comfortably.

Earlier, a half-century from Jubair Ahmed (50) and captain Nasir Hossain's 36 carried Victoria to 213 for nine.

The match got off to a delayed start as the ground was reported to be unprepared in the morning. The grass on a section of the ground needed to be trimmed, and the match started 18 minutes after the scheduled time.

The game at Fatullah saw Gazi Tank edge Naeem Islam's Kalabagan Krira Chakra by eight runs. Half centuries from Tarik Usman (50) and Riyad (50) helped Gazi Tank post 244 for eight.

Kalabagan's chase was powered by their Sri Lankan duo of Jehan Mubarak (65) and Kapugedera Chamara (60) and at one point threatened Gazi Tank's total. However, wickets fell at a regular interval towards the end of the innings and they were bundled out for 236 in 49.3 overs.

The game at the BKSP-3 saw Zimbabwean captain Brendan Taylor begin his Dhaka League stint this year in style as he smacked a 78-ball 86 for Prime Bank. They posted 249 for eight and ended up beating Cricket Coaching School comfortably by 152 runs. Prime Bank's Jeevan Mendis (4-31) was the chief wrecker as CCS were bundled out for 97.



Brothers Union batsmen Nazmus Sadat (L) and Angelo Mathews cross over for a run during their pivotal 148-run stand in their Dhaka Premier League match against Victoria SC at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**VICTORIA:** 213 for 9 in 50 overs (Jubair 50; Imtiaz 2-7, Mathews 2-29)  
**BROTHERS UNION:** 214 for 4 in 43.5 overs (Nazmus 82, Mathews 56; Sajeeva Weerakon 2-35).  
**Result:** Brothers Union won by six wickets.  
**GAZI TANK:** 244 for 8 in 50 overs (Tarik 50, Riyad 50; Naeem 3-44)  
**KALABAGAN KC:** 236 all out in 49.3 overs (Mubarak 65, K Chamara 60; Mahmudullah 2-13, Rubel 2-51).  
**Result:** Gazi Tank won by 8 runs.  
**PRIME BANK:** 249 for 8 in 50 overs (Taylor 86; Bishwant Halder 3-43)  
**CCS:** 97 all out in 36.3 overs (Asif Ahmed 27; Mendis 4-31).  
**Result:** Prime Bank won by 152 runs.

## BD women lose first ODI

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The Bangladesh women's cricket team lost their first ODI against South Africa by six wickets at the Willowmoore Park at Benoni.

Batting first Bangladesh could only reach 149 for eight in 50 overs. Farzana Haque top-scored for the visitors with a 108-ball 63.

In reply, the hosts rode on a 77 from Lizelle Lee to reach their target in just 37.5 overs, scoring 153 for four. Khadija Tul Kubra, who finished with figures of 3 for 43, was the pick of the bowlers for the visitors. The two teams will play the second of three ODIs on September 22.

## Radwanska in last four

AFP, Seoul

Top seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland overpowered Russia's Vera Dushevina 6-2, 6-0 to secure a semifinal berth at the Korea Open on Friday.

The world number four will meet Spain's Lara Arruabarrena, who broke local hearts by ending the run of wildcard entry Jang Su-Jeong 6-0, 6-4.

The third quarterfinal also saw the end of an impressive run by veteran Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan, who will celebrate her 43rd birthday later this month.

Krumm, who had claimed the scalp of second-seed Maria Kirilenko to reach the quarterfinal stage, took that form into her match with Italy's Francesca Schiavone, winning the first set 6-4.

But the former French Open champion hit back to take the next two sets 6-4, 6-4.

"It was very tough," Schiavone said. "Date was really strong and she deserved to win the first set, but fortunately I managed to get back in the match."

The Italian will meet third seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the semis after the Russian comfortably saw off Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania 6-2, 6-2.

## Fitness still in focus

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Fitness of the national booters was again one of the major issues in focus on the third day of the fact-finding committee of the national team's failure in the SAFF Championship.

The committee headed by BFF vice president Badal Roy yesterday quizzed two local coaches and one club organiser, who are not directly involved with the national football team, at the BFF House and all more or less pointed towards the fitness problems of the players during the SAFF Championship.

"I could not get a chance to watch the matches, but I realised from newspaper and media reports that the players lacked fitness. I have known most of the national players for a long time. If they were fit they would not sustain injuries and would not perform like this. I think our main problem was fitness," Sheikh Russel KC's treble-winning coach Maruful Haque told reporters after emerging from the conversation with Badal Roy yesterday.

Mohammedan coach Saiful Bari Tito apparently refrained from commenting on fitness but accepted Maruful's opinion. Tito however suggested that the committee make the domestic league stronger to enable players to put up a better performance at the international level in the future.

Nurul Alam Chowdhury, president of Sheikh Russel KC, believed there were some mistakes from the coaching staff which lowered the performance of the national team in the SAFF Championship.

"The coach promised to make the players fit for 120-minute games when he assumed charge, but what we saw in the SAFF Championship was that the players could not play the first 60 minutes fluently. So there must have been a mistake on the part of the coaching staff," said Chowdhury.

"All players selected for the national team had played for the country's top clubs under renowned coaches last season and were fit at the end of the season. It would have been better to maintain that fitness level instead of imposing an extra load on the players," opined Chowdhury, who also blamed the nepotism in team selection.

Chowdhury termed both National Teams Committee and the coaching staff as failures and advised them to follow the prescription that will emerge through the fact-finding committee.

## Viqarunnisa on top after first day

SPORTS REPORTER

The third Inter-School Tennis Carnival got underway yesterday at the National Tennis Complex with Viqarunnisa Noon School clinching the day's highest of six events on the first day.

Among 12 events decided on the first day, Viqarunnisa Noon School won in girls' singles (class-V, IV, III and II) and girls' doubles (class-V and IV) while Scholastica followed Viqarunnisa winning five events in the boys' singles (class-V, IV, III, II) and boys' doubles in class-IV. BCSIR School won in boys' doubles in class-V category.

Some 108 students from Viqarunnisa Noon School, Scholastica, Dhaka Manarat International, BAF Shahin School and BCSIR took part in the carnival.

## CMISD football festival underway

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The First CMISD football festival, organised by Cambridge Millennium International School Dhaka, got underway yesterday at its Rayerbazar premises in Dhaka with the participation of 14 English medium schools.

National football coach Lodewijk de Kruijff inaugurated the three-day meet as chief guest while national team assistant coach Rene Koster, Mohammedan coach Saiful Bari Tito, Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, former national goalkeeper and sports ambassador of CMISD Aminul Haque were among others present on the occasion.

## Letters continue to confound

SPORTS REPORTER



Several questions have been raised in various quarters about the dispatching of letters -- asking for the nomination of councillors from clubs, district and divisional sports associations and other entities -- by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for this year's BCB elections. The councillors play an important role in the elections as they will be responsible for voting in the directors of the board, who will in turn elect the president.

Certain quarters have objected to the manner in which some of the letters are being distributed. For instance, secretary of the Chittagong District Sports Association and member of the BCB's ad-hoc committee AJM Nasir has taken responsibility for dispatching the letters to the participants from Chittagong.

Many suspect that this move would prove advantageous for the current BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon since Nasir is currently a member of the current board's ad-hoc committee.

However, when contacted, Nasir denied any such notion. "There is nothing written in the constitution about how one can dispatch the letters. There is nothing wrong. I received the letters two days ago but due to the hartals I could not dispatch them. The participants will receive the letters by Saturday," he said.

"I am a mere representative of the BCB and that is why I am sending the letters to the deputy commissioner. The nomination process of the councillors will take place in a proper manner and there won't be any interference. People who suspect any wrongdoing are just trying to spread a bad name," he added.

Meanwhile, certain representatives of the clubs are concerned at not yet having received the letter even though three days have passed by.

"I am surprised to have not gotten the letter till now," said Iftekar Rahman Mithu, member of Gulshan Youth Club's executive committee. "If I don't get the letter by tomorrow (Saturday) I shall contact the board to find out what happened," he added. Sheikh Russel's representatives, who are also yet to receive the letter, echoed Mithu's concerns.

The councillor nominations are required by the BCB to be sent in by September 24.

## Mayweather bout richest in history

AFP, Los Angeles

Floyd Mayweather's win over Mexico's Saul Alvarez has been confirmed as the richest fight in boxing history with nearly \$150 million in pay-per-view revenues, US cable network Showtime said Thursday.

The revenues for Saturday's unified super welterweight championship in Las Vegas surpassed the \$136 million that was generated by Mayweather's 2007 showdown with Oscar de la Hoya.

Showtime said that the fight attracted some 2.2 million pay-per-view buys which is second all-time to the 2.48 million buys for the Mayweather/de la Hoya fight.

Showtime said the numbers on the pay-per-view are still being added up but it has already beaten out the third most popular fight in history (1.97 million) between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson in 1997.

The fight, which had an average ticket price of over \$1,200, also set a boxing record for gate revenues at more than \$20 million.



Top seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland plays a forehand return to Russia's Vera Dushevina at the Korea Open on Friday. PHOTO: INTERNET

## Seven fail dope test

AFP, Paris



Seven athletes, including one finalist, tested positive for doping at August's World Athletics Championships in Moscow, track and field's world governing body, the IAAF, announced on Friday.

The IAAF said it took a total of 1,919 blood samples and carried out 538 urine tests during the competition and 132 during the pre-competition period.

Seven athletes failed urine tests, the IAAF confirmed, with just one having appeared in a final: Ukrainian Roman Avramenko, who finished fifth in the men's javelin, but tested positive for steroid dehydrochloromethyltestosterone.

The six others were named as Afghan Massoud Azizi (men's 100m; nandrolone metabolites), Ukrainian Elyzaveta Bryzgina (women's 200m; drostanolone), Kazakhstan's Ayman Kozhakhmetova (women's 20km walk; exogenous testosterone + EPO), Iran's Ebrahim Rahimian (men's 20km walk; EPO), Turkmenistan's Yelena Ryabova (women's 200m; dehydrochloromethyltestosterone); and Guatemalan Jeremias Saloj (men's marathon; EPO).

The seven athletes have either already been sanctioned or provisionally suspended, the IAAF said.