

## Asia Cup tickets from Feb 22

SPORTS REPORTER

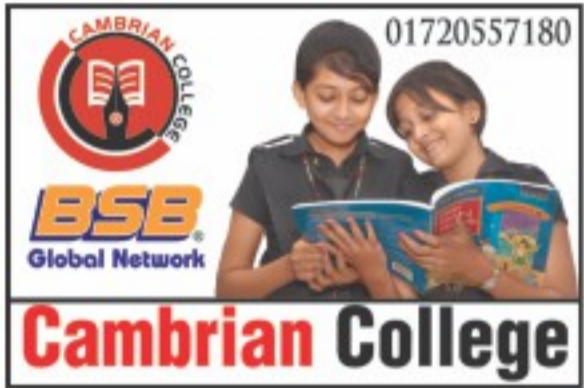
Tickets for the Asia Cup 2014 will go on sale at different branches of the United Commercial Bank from February 22. The branches in Dhaka include Mirpur, Mirpur Road (Dhanmondi), Bijoynagar, Bashundhara and Uttara. The branches in Narayanganj are Tanbazar, Chashara and Paglabazar. Tickets can also be bought through UCB's mobile transaction system, UCASH.

The following are the rates for matches at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium:

Eastern Stand: Tk 200; Northern and Southern stands: Tk 400; Shaheed Jewel and Mushtaq Stands: Tk 600; VIP Stand: Tk 800; Grand Stand: Tk 4000.

The following are the rates of the tickets for the matches at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium at Fatullah: Eastern Gallery: Tk 200; Western Gallery: Tk 400; Club House (East): Tk 600; International Gallery: Tk 800; Grand Stand: Tk 4000.

The Asia Cup is scheduled to begin from February 25 with matches taking place at Mirpur and Fatullah.



SCOREBOARD									
SRI LANKA					R	B	4s	6s	
K Perera lbw b Rubel					20	18	2	1	
Dilshan c Mushfiqur b Rubel					3	11	0	0	
Sangakkara c Sunny b Al-Amin					8	14	1	0	
Chandimal run out					13	28	0	0	
Priyanjan lbw b Shakib					6	8	1	0	
Mathews b Sunny					3	15	0	0	
Vithanage run out					7	22	1	0	
Kulasekara b Sunny					0	9	0	0	
T Perera not out					80	57	4	6	
Senanayake b Shakib					30	48	2	1	
Malinga c Anamul b Shohag					0	10	0	0	
Extras: (lb-1, w-9)					10				
Total: (All out in 40 overs)					180				
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-28, 3-43, 4-52, 5-58, 6-62, 7-64, 8-67, 9-149.									
Bowler					O	M	R	W	
Al-Amin					8	1	34	1	
Rubel					8	0	37	2	
Shakib					7	0	29	2	
Sunny					6	2	31	2	
Shohag					7	0	22	1	
Mahmudullah					4	0	26	0	
BANGLADESH					R	B	4s	6s	
Anamul c Mathews b Malinga					0	2	0	0	
Shamsur run out					62	49	5	3	
Mominul c Dilshan b T Perera					44	53	7	0	
Mushfiqur c Sangakkara b Mathews					27	50	0	1	
Shakib run out					3	9	0	0	
Nasir c Mathews b Senanayake					8	29	1	0	
Mahmudullah c Priyanjan b Senanayake					0	2	0	0	
Shohag c Vithanage b Mathews					6	9	1	0	
Sunny c Sangakkara b Mathews					5	13	1	0	
Rubel run out					4	16	0	0	
Al-Amin not out					2	5	0	0	
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-2, nb-1)					6				
Total: (All out in 39.2 overs)					167				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-79, 3-114, 4-119, 5-133, 6-133, 7-142, 8-161, 9-162.									
Bowler					O	M	R	W	
Malinga					8	1	37	1	
Kulasekara					6	0	38	0	
Mathews					7.2	1	21	3	
Senanayake					9	0	33	2	
T Perera					9	1	35	1	
Result: Sri Lanka won by 13 runs.									
Player-of-the-match: Thisara Perera.									

## Liza, Eva in lead

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Last year's runner-up WIM Shamima Akter Liza and WFM Nazrana Khan Eva shared the lead in the Sultana Kamal 34th National Women's Chess Championship at the close of penultimate round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday. Liza and Eva have eight points each from ten matches after Liza beat Dilara Jahan Nupur and Eva beat Jahanara Haque Runu yesterday.

## Awful Tigers

SAKEB SUBHAN

If cricket was the winner in the 2006 humdinger between South Africa and Australia which the former won after conceding 434 in 50 overs, yesterday in the first ODI between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at Mirpur cricket was a sorry loser. The match lasted 79.2 overs and for 68 overs it seemed a contest to see who could play the worse cricket and in the end, when tailenders Rubel Hossain and Al Amin Hossain partook in a comical run out to signal the end of the innings, Bangladesh won the bad cricket contest by a landslide.

While it is hard to even attempt objectivity when a side loses after having the opposition at 67 for eight and then being 79 for one in chase of 181, but Bangladesh's performance yesterday seemed to undo all the good work achieved since the heady days of the Asia Cup in 2012.

Five catches were dropped, three of them off the bat of top-scorer Thisara Perera, a number nine batsman who apparently transformed into Chris Gayle in the eyes of the home team. Most damaging was Mushfiqur Rahim's captaincy as he went on the defensive the moment Perera hit the first of his three sixes off Arafat Sunny, even though the first of those was a dropped catch.

Mushfiqur then took the inexplicable decision to bowl Mahmudullah Riyad when ideally he should have been throwing his best bowlers at the Lankan tail. "When Perera was hitting [Arafat] Sunny bhai we thought that the away-going delivery would yield a top edge and give us his wicket," Mushfiqur explained his fallback to the age old notion that left-arm spinners are no good for left-arm batsmen.

"Silly run-outs and [missed] catches made the difference. We can't play 30 overs really well and let off in the later 20 overs. We need to play well throughout the game," he said.

If there was a theme that bound this bizarre contest, it was the Tigers' overpowering anxiety at the slightest sign of danger. Anamul Haque was his leaden-footed self as he played away from his body in the first over of the chase, but a 79-run partnership followed between

Shamsur Rahman and Mominul Haque and there seemed to be only one possible winner at that point. Mominul departed hitting in the air to point and Shamsur's run-out, his bat getting stuck just short of the crease, was the only bit of misfortune the Tigers had suffered. The rest, as the captain himself admitted, was self-inflicted.

"I would have to say that it seems that we lost purposely. I cannot remember the last time we lost like this," said a dejected Mushfiqur.

"Having a team at 80 for eight and then conceding 180, that put us on the back foot a bit. But even then chasing 180 on the pitch was not a tough task. It was a little slow, but I would say the two run-outs [Shakib Al Hasan and Shamsur Rahman] really took the match away from us."

Shakib's run out was the first sign that panic had set in, quite unusual for a team needing 62 runs with seven wickets and 21 overs in hand. The final nail was Mushfiqur, who had seemed settled till then, trying a scoop off Angelo Mathews to be caught easily behind the wicket with only 19 to get from 35 deliveries.

In the end, it looked like Bangladesh were back to being minnows and Sri Lanka, the bigger team, just had a shocker from which they managed to recover. To their credit, Sri Lanka showed just how a side can get out of the worst of trouble, but the helping hand that Bangladesh provided will always be remembered.

## Magnificent McCullum

AFP, Wellington



An exhausted Brendon McCullum fought through pain in an epic record-breaking innings that rescued New Zealand from near-certain defeat Monday

and set them up for a series-saving result against India.

"It's been a great day," McCullum said as he walked off, unbeaten on 281 after posting a raft of records and steering New Zealand into a safe position in the second Test.

"I'm a little bit tired, the body is a bit sore, but when you're scoring runs your body doesn't hurt so much."

The hosts began their second innings 246 behind India and were staring down the barrel of defeat at 94-5. But they ended day four on 571-6, 325 runs ahead and with four wickets in hand. McCullum was 19 runs away from being the first New Zealander to reach 300, with the record currently held by Martin Crowe's 299 against Sri Lanka on the same ground in 1991.

Battling back, leg and shoulder injuries, the 32-year-old McCullum has been in the middle for nearly 12 hours and was exhausted as he entered the dressing room.

"The last hour was a bit of a daze in all honesty and I was just trying to get through. Thankfully Neesh (Jimmy Neesham) was playing some shots and ticking the board

over because I was just hanging in there, if I'm brutally honest."

McCullum and BJ Watling, who made a career-best 124, set a world-record sixth-wicket Test stand of 352, one more than the 351 by Sri Lankans Mahela and Prasanna Jayawardene against India in 2009.

It was also the third-best New Zealand stand for any wicket, while McCullum joins Glenn Turner as the only New Zealanders to score two double-centuries in the same series. Turner achieved his feat in the West Indies in 1972.

McCullum, who scored 224 to set up New Zealand's 40-run victory in the first Test, and made 225 against India at Hyderabad in 2010, equalled Stephen Fleming as only the second New Zealander to score three career double centuries.

"You have dreams and (you) don't always live them but today I thought BJ and myself were able to put ourselves in a really strong position," McCullum said.

He had lives on nine and 36, dropped by Virat Kohli and Ishant Sharma, but otherwise produced an exemplary captain's knock to save his side.

Watling indicated New Zealand could bat for at least another hour on Tuesday before pushing for what would be an extraordinary victory.

But McCullum said there were other considerations given India's high-profile batting line up.



Sri Lanka all-rounder Thisara Perera pulls one on way to scoring an unbeaten knock of 80 runs, which not only revived their teetering innings, but also played a big role in coming out with a 13-run win over Bangladesh in the first one-dayer at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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## Defensive Mushfiqur

NAIMUL KARIM



In an ideal cricketing world, when a side is

struggling at 67 for eight one would expect the fielding captain to have his best bowlers operating from both ends, with close-in fielders dominating the batsman's field of vision in order to bring a quick end to the innings.

The match at Mirpur yesterday however, followed a rather unfamiliar script. Not only did the Sri Lankans avoid a quick end to their innings but remarkably went on to post a defendable total.

Thisara Perera's score of 80 was the third highest by a number nine in ODIs. The ninth and tenth wickets added 113 runs for Sri Lanka, which happens to be their second highest ever.

While Perera and co -- helped by some lacklustre fielding by the hosts - displayed plenty of guts, there were several moments during the tail's

fight-back that reflected Mushfiqur Rahim's defensive mindset on the field.

Until the 19th over Arafat Sunny had brilliant figures of 2 for 7 in five overs. The 23rd saw Perera start the counter by hitting three sixes off Sunny, the first of which was palmed over by Shohag Gazi at the boundary rope. All of a sudden Sunny, who seemed threatening throughout, was taken off; that over was his last of the match.

Instead of putting pressure on the batsmen with the side's best bowlers during that crucial moment, the captain brought on Mahmudullah Riyad, who unfortunately had a torrid time with the ball.

He had a bad time on the field as well, dropping Senanayake at slip in the 26th over off Gazi. But what was perhaps more surprising was that Perera's aggression compelled the captain to remove the slips, even though the opponents were eight down and numbers nine and ten were at the crease.

While Perera being left-handed

could have been a reason behind bowling Gazi and Riyad, the strategy did not seem to work and should have been changed sooner than it was. It was something that Mushfiqur eventually did by bringing in Shakib Al Hasan in the 34th over, more than 11 overs after the eighth wicket fell. By then the visitors had already put on 140 on the board.

Shakib, who finished his first spell in the 18th over -- 1 for 12 in three overs -- came back and broke the partnership almost instantly by bowling Senanayake.

Captaincy cannot be the only factor to be blamed. Bangladesh's performance on the field, which saw them drop four simple catches -- three of them off Perera's bat -- played a role as well.

Bangladesh were at fault at a number of stages during the game; they seemed slightly overconfident during the chase, threw away their wickets and dropped a number of catches. However, it was the defensive mindset while on the field that ended up costing them the match.

## Afusi praises Sohel, defends himself

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club coach Joseph Afusi highly praised young midfielder Sohel Rana for his brilliant performance throughout the 118th IFA Shield in Kolkata and tipped the youngster for a potential career in Europe. The Nigerian termed Sheikh Jamal's IFA Shield Twenty20 tournament in Bangladesh next month.

Hendricks, 23, is the only newcomer in the 15-man squad, which will also play three Twenty20 internationals against Australia later this month.

Hendricks took a record 23 wickets at an average of 10.28 in South Africa's domestic Twenty20 competition which ended earlier this month.

His feats earned him a US\$300,000 contract with Kings XI Punjab in the Indian Premier League, where he will be in the same squad as fellow left-arm, Australia's Mitchell Johnson.

**SQUAD**  
Faf du Plessis (captain), Hashim Amla, Farhaan Behardien, Quinton de Kock (wkt), AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Beuran Hendricks, Imran Tahir, David Miller, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Wayne Parnell, Aaron Phangiso, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe.

## Thisara was brilliant

SPORTS REPORTER

From 67 for eight Sri Lanka went on to win yesterday's first ODI against Bangladesh by 13 runs, and the lion's share of the credit must go to Thisara Perera, who clubbed a 57-ball 84.

"He is one of the best all-rounders that we have. He has been winning us matches in the past few years with bat and ball, he is matured," said Sri Lanka skipper Angelo Mathews after the match. "He did it in the T20s in Chittagong, and he has improved quite rapidly.

"The way he batted was absolutely brilliant. When Thisara and Sachithra (Senanayake) were batting, I thought we should get to at least 150 to give the bowlers some sort of chance," he said.

"I told him (Senanayake) to just support me, and I can handle everything in the wicket" Thisara said about the match-turning partnership.

## Under-19s outclass Namibia

SPORTS REPORTER

Mosaddek Hossain's all-round effort helped Bangladesh U-19 win their second game of the ICC Under-19 World Cup yesterday after they beat Namibia U-19 by 52 runs at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

Batting first the junior Tigers rode on half-centuries from Mosaddek and Shadman Islam to finish on 233 for five. Mosaddek's unbeaten 70 came off 76 balls and saw him hit four fours. Opener Shadman's 65 laid the foundations for Bangladesh.

In reply, Namibia were bundled out for 181 in 49 overs. Mosaddek (3-29) and pacer Mustafizur Rahman (3-24) finished with three wickets each.

Bangladesh however, will have to win their final game against Australia U-19 to confirm a spot in the next round as the Australians lost to Afghanistan yesterday.

## Mini h'ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh International School crushed European Standard School by 24-0 goals in one of the boys' group matches of the opening day of Milkman Mini Handball Tournament at Captain M Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

In the other matches, Saint Gregories High School defeated Shaheed Ramizuddin School by 25-9 goals, BAF Shaheen School and College beat Dhanmondi Tutorial by 22-0 goals, Dhaka Residential beat South Breeze by 11-5 goals, Dhanmondi Tutorial outplayed Manarat International School and College by 13-3 goals while Scholastica played out a 16-16 goal draw with BAF Shaheen School and Collage.

In the girl's group, Scholastica vanquished South Point School and College by 11-2 goals, Viqarunnisa Noon School and College beat Banani Bidya Niketan by 4-1 goals while BISC beat Dhanmondi Tutorial by 3-1 goals.