

## Dhaka-Tangail final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Tangail and Dhaka moved into the final of the Spectra Group 1st inter-district women's kabaddi competition after they won their respective semifinals at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

The final will be held today at the same venue.

On way to the final, Tangail crushed Narayanganj 67-27 with four lonas in the first semifinal after which Dhaka snuck past Rajshahi 40-38 in the day's other semifinal.

Dhaka eased past Manikganj 52-8 in their day's first match while Narail, Narayanganj and Rajshahi won their respective matches while the match between Gaibandha and Jamalpur ended in an exciting 33-33 draw.

## Surprise early

**FROM PAGE 17**  
counting the rain breaks), it is special. The way we batted and bowled in the first innings was simply amazing. We played good cricket and didn't allow Bangladesh to raise their heads. We wanted to knock them off every time we bowled and batted and that's what happened," said the champion off-spinner who became only the second bowler to achieve the 700-wicket milestone after Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne.

"Taking 700 wickets is a big achievement. I think I can achieve a little bit more than the world record. I hope to play until the next World Cup in 2011 and the challenge is that before I retire, I am thinking of taking 1000 Test wickets," said the 35-year-old spin wizard.

He said that he was looking forward to their next assignment in Australia in November.

"I want to go to Australia and try and win the series because we have never won it there. Also I have not taken five wickets in an innings in Australia. They are the No 1 team in the world but we can also be better than them if we play to our strengths" he headed.

## Lawson close

**FROM PAGE 17**  
However, 49-year-old Lawson looks set to get the nod after players and team management gave him backing.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Cricket Board (PCB) will conduct out-of-competition dope tests on the 30 players they have named in their preliminary squad for the Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa in September.

The dope tests would be conducted soon as part of Pakistan's zero tolerance policy against drugs in sports.

## Nakamura

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Japan coach Ivica Osim acknowledged how much the weather is playing a part after his team's victory on Friday.

"Most of all, I am happy that it has ended without any of our players and staff suffering a heart attack," he said of the match.

"It was such harsh weather conditions."

## Mohammedan

**FROM PAGE 17**  
bigger victory when he screwed his twin-shot. After his first effort was partially stopped by Mamun, the yellow-haired Mohammedan forward put the rebound wide of the open goal.

Farashganj, who suffered their seventh loss in 18 outings, remained on 21 points.

### TEAMS

**MOHAMMEDAN:** Himel, Arif, Odafe, Biplab, Zahid, Kamal, Divine, Mithu (Rony), Sharif, Paul (Farhad) and Emeka.

**FARASHGANJ:** Mamun, Liton (Kutub), Mamun Mia, Faisal, Jamal (Rajib), Khaled (Murad), Kabir, Arup (Rajib), Puma, Rony and Robin (Ali).

**Referee:** Abdul Hannan.



## Did U Know?

The high jump method of jumping head first and landing on the back is called the Fosbury Flop.

DAY'S EVENT

B.League

Brothers Union v Ctg Mohammedan

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Time: 4:30 pm

Khulna Abahani v Abahani

Venue: Khulna Stadium

Time: 4:15 pm



PHOTO: COURTESY

Players of the Daily Janakantha celebrate after they clinched the Pepsi-DRU six-a-side cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

# Harmison 'extremely doubtful'



AFP, London

England fast bowler Stephen Harmison was rated "extremely doubtful" on Saturday for next week's first Test against India here at Lord's after suffering fresh hernia problems.

An England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) statement said: "Stephen Harmison has suffered an exacerbation of the hernia problem which he experienced during the fourth Test against West Indies at Durham.

"He will be reassessed by ECB medical staff early next week and at this stage he is rated extremely doubtful for the first Test against India starting on Thursday."

The selectors, due to announce the squad on Sunday, had their plans disrupted after Harmison aggravated his "non-serious hernia" injury while playing Friday in Durham's ongoing Championship match away to champions Sussex at Hove where he bowled just five overs.

Harmison withdrew from the remainder of the four-day game on Saturday and chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said of the quick's injury: "He will have it reassessed on

Monday. At this stage he would have to be considered extremely doubtful for the first Test.

"He is not ruled out."

The 28-year-old Harmison originally sustained the injury at his Riverside home ground nearly a month ago during England's fourth Test win against the West Indies.

However, he opted against immediate surgery after being advised he could continue to play in the India series and Durham's Friends Provident Trophy final against Hampshire on August 18 - the county's first senior Lord's final.

look back at Sri Lanka because I was most successful against them but I will also not hesitate to look at this Test series because as a captain I learnt a lot from the tough series," he said.

Both the Bangladesh coach and captain have tried to be optimistic despite the terrible 3-0 defeat but there was no doubt that the three-match series adventure simply frightened them because they became babes in the series against a top-ranked side.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the third and the final Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy on Friday:

**BANGLADESH:** First innings 131 (Nafees 29, Ashrafal 26; Muralidaran 6-28, De Silva 2-29)

**SRI LANKA:** First innings 500-4 d c . (Sangakkara 222\*, Jayawardene 165, Raseel 3-103)

**BANGLADESH:** Second innings Omar c Sangakkara b Malinga 22 Nafees c Jayawardene

b Muralidaran	64
Bashar b Muralidaran	15
Ashrafal lbw b Muralidaran	19
Rahim c Tharanga b De Silva	1
Imran c Jayawardene b Malinga	17
Saleh c M Jayawardene b De Silva	0
Mortaza c sub (Warnapurna)	0
b Muralidaran	8
Rafique not out	0
Hossain b Muralidaran	5
Rasel c Maharoof b Muralidaran	4
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, nb-13, w-3)	21
Total: (all out in 59 overs)	176
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-98, 3-123, 4-138, 5-138, 6-142, 7-166, 8-167, 9-172, 10-176..	

<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Mashrafe	10	0	46	2
De Silva	12	4	34	2
Maharoof	16	7	37	0
Muralidaran	21	5	54	6

**Result:** Sri Lanka win match by an innings and 193 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Muttiah Muralidaran (Sri Lanka).

**Man-of-the-series:** Muttiah Muralidaran (Sri Lanka).

# Self-belief

**FROM PAGE 17**  
ultimately our performance went down when compared to the previous one in 2005," he added.

The 23-year-old new Bangladesh skipper particularly blamed his top-order for this disaster as they failed to deliver in the first innings of every Test scoring 89, 62 and 131 respectively.

"I must say our bowlers made hardly any impact in the series but the top-order failure was the main reason behind the disaster. But what I can say is that we are trying to play the Test match according to it's nature and it just takes some time to get back the result of our all hard work," he assured.

Sri Lanka is always a good memory for the right-hander because he not only made his first hundred on his debut against them but also struck two more including a 129-run unbeaten effort in the second game at the P Sara.

But his debut as a captain against them was simply shocking.

"As a player definitely I enjoy to

# MU could face

**FROM PAGE 20**  
demanding that West Ham stick to that undertaking and are refusing to change their stance - and are even threatening to convene a second inquiry - despite concerted pressure from United whose lawyer Maurice Watkins has been tasked with sorting out a deal. Ironically Watkins was in the advisory panel that helped draw up the Premier League rules which West Ham then breached.

He spent last Friday at the organisation's headquarters but failed to change the minds of its

chief executive, Richard Scudamore, or its chairman, Dave Richards.

Scudamore has come under increasing pressure over his handling of the affair ever since West Ham were found guilty of acting improperly and withholding documentation over the ownership of Tevez and Javier Mascherano. When the two were registered as players, West Ham failed to disclose that they had entered into an agreement with third-party companies.

There is an appetite at the Premier League for the issue to go

to court so that it serves as a warning to clubs and to businessman against such agreements. That would need Joorabchian to sue West Ham, or indeed the Premier League, if he fails to receive the money he believes is due to him as the holder of Tevez's economic rights. However it also appears that he is intent on concluding a deal that would provoke the Premier League into taking action. The problem with that is that the organisation insists it will not hand over Tevez's registration until it is satisfied.

# Teammates happy

**FROM PAGE 20**  
corner of the stadium. Beckham's odyssey has taken him from Manchester United to Real Madrid and now Los Angeles, where he will earn more than 50 times the average wage in the North America's premier football league.

He signed for 6.5 million dollars a year with the Galaxy but the package is potentially worth 250 million dollars over five years depending on sponsors, marketing and merchandise sales.

Raising the profile of Major League Soccer is the long-term goal, but the immediate challenge will be to turn the struggling Galaxy

from chumps to champs.

That's a tall order for Beckham because, as the second worst team in the league, Los Angeles have won just three of 12 games this season.

Beckham said he has been preparing for the season by watching tapes of the Galaxy games.

"We are doing all right," he said. "The players are coming together and they are playing a lot better in the last three or four games."

The Galaxy have sold 11,000 season tickets for their 27,000 seat stadium.

Beckham is expected to play in central midfield for the Galaxy,

rather than wide on the right where has spent most of his career with Manchester United, Real Madrid and England.

Beckham said he wants to inspire a lasting interest in the sport for Americans and not have his contribution be a passing fad.

"This is the honeymoon period at the moment," he said. "I hope that continues. My job is as an ambassador, and I plan on keeping that going."

He hinted he could try and play past the five years.

"My contract here is five years and that will take me to 37," he said. "Some players play until they turn 40, but that is mostly goalkeepers."

seriously tested.

"Maybe if I was manager I'd prefer Robinho instead of Tevez," said Doni, the goalkeeper hero in Tuesday's penalty shoot out triumph against Uruguay. "They have the best attack, there's no doubt about that. But when we have the ball they won't be attacking."

The problem for Brazil is that when they have had the ball they haven't attacked much either. They have worn down opponents rather than dazzled them. Exactly as Argentina so often used to do. Times have changed.

## Janakantha lift DRU cricket title

SPORTS REPORTER

The Daily Janakantha lifted the title of Pepsi-DRU six-a-side cricket tournament after they romped past Channel i by five wickets at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 52 to win, Janakantha openers Asif Iqbal and Jasimuddin stormed to the target after captain Asif took two wickets to restrict Channel i. Partha Tanvir Noved made 30 for the runners-up.

Jasimuddin, who took a wicket and scored 15 not out, was adjudged man-of-the-match.

## Tendulkar warms up well

AFP, Chelmsford

Sachin Tendulkar warmed up for next week's first Test at Lord's with a hundred against England Lions here Saturday.

Tendulkar, 99 not out at tea, completed his 63rd first-class hundred in the first over of the second day's final session with a single off Tim Bresnan. He reached the landmark in 140 balls with one six and 13 fours.

'The Little Master' is Test cricket's leading all-time century maker with 37 from 137 matches.

Earlier, Bresnan scored 126 not out in the 'A' side's total of 413 for eight declared before skipper Andrew Strauss, likely to open the innings at Lord's, called a halt in this three-day match.

India then suffered a top-order collapse and were 65 for four before Tendulkar and Yuvraj Singh came together to launch the flow of wickets

Tendulkar, 34, who was a teenager when he scored his first Test century at Old Trafford in 1990, has indicated this is likely to be his last England tour.

The Lord's match, due to start on Thursday, is the first of a three-Test series.

## Iran coach hits

FROM PAGE 20

on Thursday.  
"This is just amazing. It was an unfair action by the referee. I threw a bottle at one of my players and I didn't deserve to be sent off but I left the pitch without complaining," Ghalenoei said.

"I'm amazed they're suspending me for this game."

The triple champions trail China on goal difference in Group C with the team finishing top avoiding a punishing travel schedule in the knock-out stages.

## Fergie fires

FROM PAGE 20

ment this summer only Liverpool have attempted to match them by spending almost 40 million pounds on Fernando Torres, Yossi Benayoun and Ryan Babel. Chelsea have spent 13 million pounds on Florent Malouda, the Lyons winger, but Tal Ben Haim, Steve Sidwell and Claudio Pizarro have arrived at Stamford Bridge on free transfers.

Arsenal have spent 8 million pounds on Eduardo da Silva, the Croatia striker, although the sale of Thierry Henry for 16.2 million pounds has left them lacking their usual goal threat. Ferguson, however, claims that Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, was right to let the France striker leave the Emirates Stadium for Barcelona.

"Arsenal are still a big threat and they'll be in the top four, even without Thierry Henry," Ferguson said. "I just think it was time for him to go and I think Arsene knew that. I believe they will be better."

## Galaxy unveil

FROM PAGE 20

is better suited now to raise the profile of the game than it was in the 1970s when Pele joined the now defunct North American Soccer League.

"In those days people pumped a lot of money into one team," he said, referring to Pele's New York Cosmos.

"The MLS is a lot more stable than when Pele and George Best moved to America."

Yallop, whose Galaxy side is currently second-worst in the MLS, sounded relieved that Beckham had at last arrived.

"Since we signed David in January, it has been a long wait believe me, but I feel David is the last piece of the puzzle to get us moving in the right direction."

"He's a winner on and off the field, his teammates like him, he wins games and he's a great leader. We're all very very excited and cannot wait to get him on the field, get him in his jersey, get his boots on and win some games."

# 'Win changed everything'



CRICINFO, undated

Watching West Indies celebrate their win over England in the one-day series was special, and marked a remarkable transformation in fortunes for such a brittle side. And for Daren Powell, their fast bowler who suffered during the preceding Tests, the win was a relief as much as anything else. For once, his team could walk tall on this tour.

"It was a big relief because we'd been losing, and we didn't want to be going home with our heads down," Powell told Cricinfo after West Indies' thumping win over Netherlands in Dublin on Monday.

"For the past year or so, I've been saying that I really want to come home from a series with my head up, smiling -- and it's so good that we beat England, you know, it was a real good one.

"When we travelled down on the bus to London, I spent some time looking at everyone on the bus...and it was just completely changed, a different bunch of players. Happy, joking, laughing and having a nice time. It's good to see everyone smiling, happy about what we did, and how we felt."

For a team whose decline in the past 10 years has been as stark as it has been depressing, the victory was a timely fillip, especially as they now have to pit their wits against some of the lesser teams of the world. The squad has decamped to Ireland for a Quadrangular tournament that also involves Netherlands and Scotland, and the onus is on them to maintain the same intensity

they showed against England.

"It's pretty hard when you're playing a team that's less competitive," said Powell. "But we haven't been winning much cricket, and then had a really good series in the one-dayers against England. And after those one-dayers, we just forget everything that happened in the (preceding) Tests.

"It just showed that it's good to win," he said. "And whatever happens here, we just have to remember how good it is to win. Winning gives you confidence, and then you know how to carry on in other games, when you reach tougher opposition. (In the past) West Indies haven't pulled off the victory when we should."

Why has it been a tour of two halves, though? West Indies were so dismal during the Test series that few gave them much hope of even challenging England in the one-dayers. Yet they lifted themselves to a new, thrilling level -- and, crucially for them, they were clearly enjoying it all so much. Powell, too, was a man reborn, consistently bowling in excess of 90mph and showing excellent control, picking up six wickets at 21.83. Could it have had anything to do with the identity of his captain, Chris Gayle?

"Chris really is tremendous you know," Powell, a good friend of Gayle's, said. "Maybe people will take this the wrong way, because we're from the same country (Jamaica), but really, I've played under so many other captains in the past. He doesn't say much, but he knows how to get the team together -- to spark off your plugs and stuff -- and it's very pleasing to see someone like him generating this team spirit.



PHOTO: INTERNET

England A all-rounder Tim Bresnan sweeps the ball during his 126-run knock against India on the opening day of their three-day practice match at the county ground in Chelmsford on Friday.

**CROSSWORD**

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Kyoto

4 Wager

7 Standard

12 Chaps

13 Whatever

14 Bulgaria's

15 Illustrations

16 Tour rural

18 The girl

19 Romance

20 Above all

22 Freddy's

23 Conked

27 Moray,

29 PBS

31 Action

34 Literary

35 Big circus

37 "Of

38 Duel tool

39 Shock

41 Knife

45 Band-

47 Praise

48 Clingy

52 Yang

53 Oriental

54 "CSI"

55 Brock of

56 Strip of

57 Try the

58 Type units

DOWN

1 Nebraska

25 Always,

2 Sporty

3 Prelude

4 Rum

5 Canine

6 Alpine

7 Cold War

8 Drunkard

9 Sci-fi

10 Football

11 Felon's

17 Senseless?

21 Tubular

23 Raiment

24 Hostel

25 Always,

26 Change

28 Perfume-

30 Candle

31 Rushmore

32 Eminem's

33 Preceding

36 Playwright

37 Sanaa

40 Sparsely

43 Figure of

44 Aphrodite

45 Throe

46 Pronto,

48 Cudgel

49 Blond

50 Carnival

51 A

AFT

SIR

SPILLING

FALLOW

ALL

REGIS

BILLING

ALAT

SKIN

HANG

SERIA

ELAL

LUAU

KILLING

WET

BAR

SHILLING

BEERO

TEEM

FEDS

ITEM

LUAU

DEET

INCAS

GUATA

WHALE

FILE

NEO

GAB

Solution time: 25 mins.

42 Rule-

43 Figure of

44 Aphrodite

45 Throe

46 Pronto,

48 Cudgel

49 Blond

50 Carnival

51 A

CRYPTOQUIP

Q Q K Y H ' F N Z D N N F Q W P G Y F

C S C W L D Y ' B O I C K Q W P V H P

Y G L C F , Z Y H I A K Y H B C K

V D C V B O H I Q W P G Y F D Q S ?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: SUPPOSING AN

ARCHER'S BOW WERE SLEEKLY DESIGNED, I

GUESS IT MIGHT BE KNOWN AS ARROW-

DYNAMIC.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals Y

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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