

## Dhaka Sports in semis

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Chittagong

A clinical Dhaka Sports Club raced to the semifinal of the Habib Group PCL Twenty20 tournament beating Ispahani Sports Club by seven runs at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

Batting first, Dhaka Sports scored 137 for 8 in 20 overs and in reply, Ispahani fell short thanks to Shahadat Hossain's match-winning two-wicket haul. The paceman took both the wickets in the 17th over of the innings, as Ispahani were restricted to 130 for 8 in 20 overs.

Dhaka Sports also had their Pakistani recruit Wasim Nayeem to thank after the experienced pro turned in an all-round show.

Nayeem first struck 42 off 43 balls that featured six boundaries and then picked up two wickets for 31 runs.

His opening partner and captain Rajin Saleh

was run out via a throw from Mahbul Alam with the score on 22 as the two tried to force the pace.

Khaled Mashud also fell soon after, adding just 16 for the second wicket when Fazle Rabbi took a brilliant catch to get rid of the former national captain. Rabbi remained off the field for ten minutes to take medication for sustaining injury while taking the catch.

Wasim finally was dismissed in the 13th over to make his total 156 runs in three matches, the highest in the tournament.

Ziaur Rahman hit the second-highest score of 36 runs off 21 balls with four huge sixes that gave the final push to Dhaka Sports' innings.

Chasing the moderate target, Ispahani opener Shamsur Rahman and Fazle Rabbi added 44 runs in only 5.5 overs when the latter fell to Nayeem.

Sri Lankan recruit Jeevan Mendis who was Ispahani's hero against the Dada Warriors, scored 35 from 33 balls with five boundaries.

Sahagir Hossain and Monir Hossain scored 15

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## Derby Abahani's

Cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Abahani came out on top in the local derby, beating Mohammedan Sporting Club

by 21 runs in the second match of the Habib Group PCL Twenty20 tournament at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

Though Abahani reached the semifinals stage before the match and Mohammedan are

already out of the tournament, the match created huge anticipation among the players and the viewers as well.

Batting first, Abahani reached 153 for eight in 20 overs before restricting Mohammedan for 132 for nine.

The most expensive player of the tournament and local hero Tamim Iqbal went back to the pavilion after making just 10 runs but Abahani's Sri Lankan recruit Chamara Silva led the team to seal the win with his 63 runs off 50 balls featuring six boundaries and a six.

Two-down batsman Silva stayed at the crease till the last over to push the score past the 150-mark. In the process of going for their runs, Abahani lost five wickets in the last seven balls.

National discard Hannan Sarker also hit a rapid 26-ball 36 that had a couple of sixes and three boundaries.

Chasing 154 runs for a face-saving victory, Mohammedans lost the first three wickets for just 18 runs in 4.4 overs.

That slimmed the hopes of Mohammedan but they recovered to 84 for four in 12.3 overs with a solid Qaisar Abbas hitting 41 off 38 balls that had four boundaries and a six.

Both Qaisar and Ishtiaq added 56 for the fourth wicket with the latter hitting 36 off 29 balls.

Nayyer Abbas also contributed 22 runs but finally his team could reach only 130 runs.

But it was Abahani's Sri

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PHOTO: STAR

Sri Lankan Frank Karunaratne (top) is the toast of his Abahani teammates after he has just taken a brilliant catch to dismiss Mohammedan's Sanjamul Islam during the sides' Port-city Cricket League match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

FOOTBALL IS CRUEL: An ecstatic Andreas Iniesta runs off in delight while celebrating his injury-time strike against Chelsea in the semifinal of the Champions League at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday. The Barcelona midfielder's stunning last-gasp goal tied the second-leg 1-1 on aggregate and came late enough to ensure that a heroic Chelsea rearguard action would go un-rewarded.

## Trio in MSC row

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong Mohammedan's Guinean star Camara Saifullah along with two of his teammates are embroiled in a dispute over payment issues with their club, which has prevented them from returning home even a month after the Super Cup.

Camara, Musa Fontaine and Raphael Sagnio who are both also from Guinea are currently in Dhaka and have submitted a letter to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) earlier this week requesting the game's governing body to deal with the issue.

"I have over 2000 dollars due from them and I cannot even buy a ticket home. We all have fulfilled our club's commitments and we really did

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## Iniesta makes Blues bleed

### Barca meet Man Utd in Rome final

AFP, London



Andres Iniesta scored one of the most dramatic goals in Champions League history to sink Chelsea and send ten-man Barcelona into a Champions League final showdown with Manchester United.

Three minutes into injury time in a second leg that Chelsea had completely dominated, the Spain midfielder latched on to a pass from Lionel Messi and lashed an unstoppable shot spinning into the top corner of the net.

That was enough to cancel out Michael Essien's even more stunning 9th-minute strike for Chelsea, level the aggregate score at 1-1 and send the Catalans to Rome on the away goals rule after an encounter that will principally be remembered for the erratic refereeing of Tom Ovrebø.

Ovrebø was wrong to send Barca's French defender Eric Abidal off with just over 20 minutes left for what he thought was a professional foul on Nicolas Anelka.

But the Norwegian official's performance hit Chelsea far harder with Guus Hiddink's side denied what appeared to be at least two stonewall penalties on a night that ended with him being escorted off the pitch under the protection of Chelsea stewards alarmed by Didier Drogba's attempts to confront him.

Pilloried as exponents of "anti-football" after the first leg, Chelsea needed only eight minutes of the return to produce the perfect riposte with a goal that breathtakingly demonstrated that the Catalans do not enjoy a monopoly on technical excellence.

Frank Lampard's attempted chip was deflected by Toure into Essien's path and, from just beyond the arc on the edge of the penalty area, the Ghanaian midfielder unleashed a left-foot volley that rattled

into the net off the underside of the bar. Even after falling behind, Barca offered little in terms of real penetration.

Daniel Alves was only narrowly off target with a 40-yard free-kick but the Brazilian right-back was also extremely fortunate not to concede a penalty in a wrestling match with Florent Malouda that started outside but continued into the area.

Drogba's hopeful shot from the tight-angled free-kick that was awarded yielded a corner that produced another chance, John Terry directing his header inches wide.

Moments earlier, Drogba had been thwarted by Victor Valdes's speed off his line and when Lampard released the striker once more shortly afterwards, Chelsea's appeals for Abidal's robust challenge to be penalised went unheeded.

A flurry of activity in the run-up to half-time hinted at better things to come from Barca.

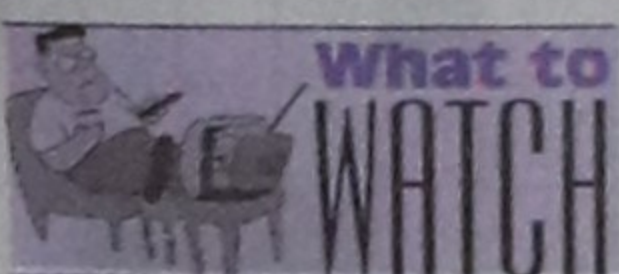
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Graeme Swann

(England off-spinner)

"It surprised everyone how much junk there was in there: 29 pieces of floating bone." Revealing what the surgeons found when they operated on his elbow.



### STAR Cricket

England v West Indies

First Test, Day Three

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Indian Premier League

Delhi Daredevils v Mumbai Indians

Live from 8:30pm



### Port-city Cricket League

Dada Warriors v Pirates of Ctg

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Ctg

## Chennai win Kings battle

CRICINFO, undated



Kings XI Punjab made Chennai Super Kings really sweat in a spirited chase towards a Duckworth-Lewis revised target of 187, but when it mattered most tactical nuance won it for Chennai. Simon Katich had set the tone for Punjab's bravado and Yuvraj Singh and Mahela Jayawardene battled superbly in the face of adversity, adding 90 in just 8.5 overs under lights. Then, with 30 left to defend off 12 balls, MS Dhoni took pace off the ball by calling on Suresh Raina's part-time off-spin, and that six-run over provided definitive.

Chennai's big total was set up by Matthew Hayden's belligerent 89, either side of an hour-and-half's rain delay, and Dhoni's sparky 56

from 27 balls. Up against the strongest batting line-up in the tournament, they were pummeled into submission for the second match running.

Either side of an hour-and-half's rain delay, Matthew Hayden bludgeoned his third and most dismissive half-century of the IPL to biff Chennai Super Kings to 185 in 18 overs. Hayden was rude to Kings XI Punjab's bowlers from the time MS Dhoni opted to bat, but his assault after the rain hold-up was stunning, with Sreesanth feeling the brunt of his power. Punjab may have thought they'd done damage control by getting Suresh Raina shortly after play resumed, but Hayden and Dhoni, who walked in and smacked an unbeaten 56 from 27 balls, compounded their woes and then some. Pace has been Punjab's main bowling weapon, but the bowlers were taken to the cleaners by

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## Onions inspires Eng

Cricket

AFP, London

Fast bowler Graham Onions took five wickets, including three in an over, on his Test debut to leave the West Indies contemplating the prospect of defeat inside three days at Lord's on Thursday.

The tourists were made to follow-on after a dramatic second day collapse in the first of this two-Test series with England off-spinner Graeme Swann also having a day to remember.

On his home debut, he made a Test-best 63 not out and then sparked the tourists' slump with two wickets in two balls before tea, including the prize scalp of Shivnarine Chanderpaul for a golden duck.

West Indies were bowled out for 152 in reply to England's first innings 377, 26 runs shy of avoiding the follow-on, with openers Devon Smith (46) and captain Chris

Gayle (28) the only batsmen to make more than 17.

Durham quick Onions took five wickets for 38 runs in 9.3 overs to grab a place on the

bowlers' honours board at Lord's.

Before the close James Anderson took his first two

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PHOTO: AFP

West Indies tearaway Fidel Edwards shows off the match ball to the crowd after picking up six wickets against England on the second day of the first Test at Lord's yesterday.

## Clubs demand BNS matches in WC 2011

SPORTS REPORTER

A section of Dhaka Metropolis' clubs have demanded that the Bangabandhu National Stadium must host matches of the 2011 Cricket World Cup.

Bangladesh are set to host eight matches of the world's biggest cricket competition as well as the opening ceremony which is slated to be held at the Big Bowl.

Addressing a press conference yesterday at a local hotel, Mohammad Abid Hossain of Brothers Union Club said they would soon submit a memorandum to State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker demanding necessary measures to hold all the matches of the next World Cup Cricket in Bangladesh quota at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

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## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonali Recreation Club crushed Jagroto Krira and Sangskriti Sangsad 80-17 in the only match of the Second Division Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

The win was achieved with sevenlonas.

In today's matches, Bangladesh Boys take on Muradnagar Eleven and Sat Rowja Nabin Sangha face Shishu Kishore Sangha at the same venue.

### UNDER-17 CRICKET

Rudra Kabir and Ashiqul Alam scored hundreds for the Bangladesh Under-17 side against Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) President's XI Under-17 side on the first day of the third two-day match at the Kalyani Stadium in West

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## Rajasthan romp to top

CRICINFO, undated



Rajasthan Royals moved to the top of the Indian Premier League (IPL) table with a convincing seven-wicket win over Bangalore Royal Challengers, who looked out of depth as they were bowled out for 105 -- the tournament's second lowest total -- and conceded the win inside 15 overs at SuperSport Park in Centurion on Thursday. Naman Ojha scored his second consecutive half-century in the brief chase but the win was set up by Amit Singh and Ravindra Jadeja, who took seven Bangalore wickets to ensure a low target for their side.

The difference lay in how the two seats of bowlers exploited the bounce offered by the Centurion pitch; Bangalore's couldn't, Rajasthan's did to perfection. Bangalore used the short ball only after the strategy break, by which time the required run-rate was down to below five an over.

Shane Warne won a good toss and chose to field on a new pitch that had received rain overnight. Unlike in the last few games where he opened with spin from one end, he chose to give his fast bowlers a chance to exploit the conditions. Like the spinners, though, the fast bowlers gave favourable returns in their first spells. Batsmen found it difficult to counter the bounce when they tried to cut or pull though poor shot selection accounted for two of the first three wickets.

Amit struck first in the third over; Wasim Jaffer, who had been dropped by Amit in the previous over, drove a fuller delivery away from his body

and popped a catch to cover. Jacques Kallis, after flicking a six off his pads from Munaf

Patel, stepped out to a shorter delivery and top-edged a pull

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PHOTO: INTERNET

Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Lee Carse picks up Royal Challengers Bangalore's Rahul Dravid for a duck during their IPL match at Centurion yesterday.

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