

## Time to get cricket right

### World Twenty20 begins in Caribbean today

CRICINFO, undated

Love it or hate it you can't get away from it. No sooner has a six-week IPL (Indian Premier League) concluded in Mumbai -- amid huge controversy -- that another Twenty20 tournament begins on the other side of world in the Caribbean today.

The tournament begins with the match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Guyana. The opening day of the 17-day meet will also see hosts West Indies take on minnows Ireland, also in Guyana.

The events of the last few weeks in India have swept cricket to the sidelines. The game needs a sparkling tournament in West Indies and, most importantly, a clean and controversy-free event.

Although the two tournaments are very different, it is hardly ideal to have so much cricket of one format in the same period, let alone another World Twenty20 less than a year after the last one in England which Pakistan memorably won at Lord's. However, International Cricket Council (ICC) are trying to get their events schedule back on track, so the trophy is up for grabs again less than a year after it was collected by the now-retired (and suspended) Younus Khan. A lot has happened in nine months.

One advantage of Twenty20 rolling into Twenty20 is that many of the players will be attuned to the format. The preparation factor, though, needs to be balanced against the fatigue factor and possible injuries. Already the tournament is missing Virender Sehwag, Wayne Parnell and Brett Lee through injury. The latter's withdrawal is not a huge surprise, but the absence of Sehwag and Parnell robs the event of two match-winners. They could have been injured without the IPL, but the timing doesn't help.

And not all the players at the IPL who are now here in the West Indies have been active over the last two months. Eoin Morgan and AB de Villiers were two of the notable stars to be benched by their franchises which just goes to show how pre-tournament status can quickly count for nothing. Morgan's situation in particular shows the problems that can occur: he went to the IPL in the form of his life, but hasn't picked up a bat since March 25. Then there are the likes of Yuvraj Singh and Dwayne Bravo; players who had a forgettable IPL but will be crucial to their team's chances in this tournament.

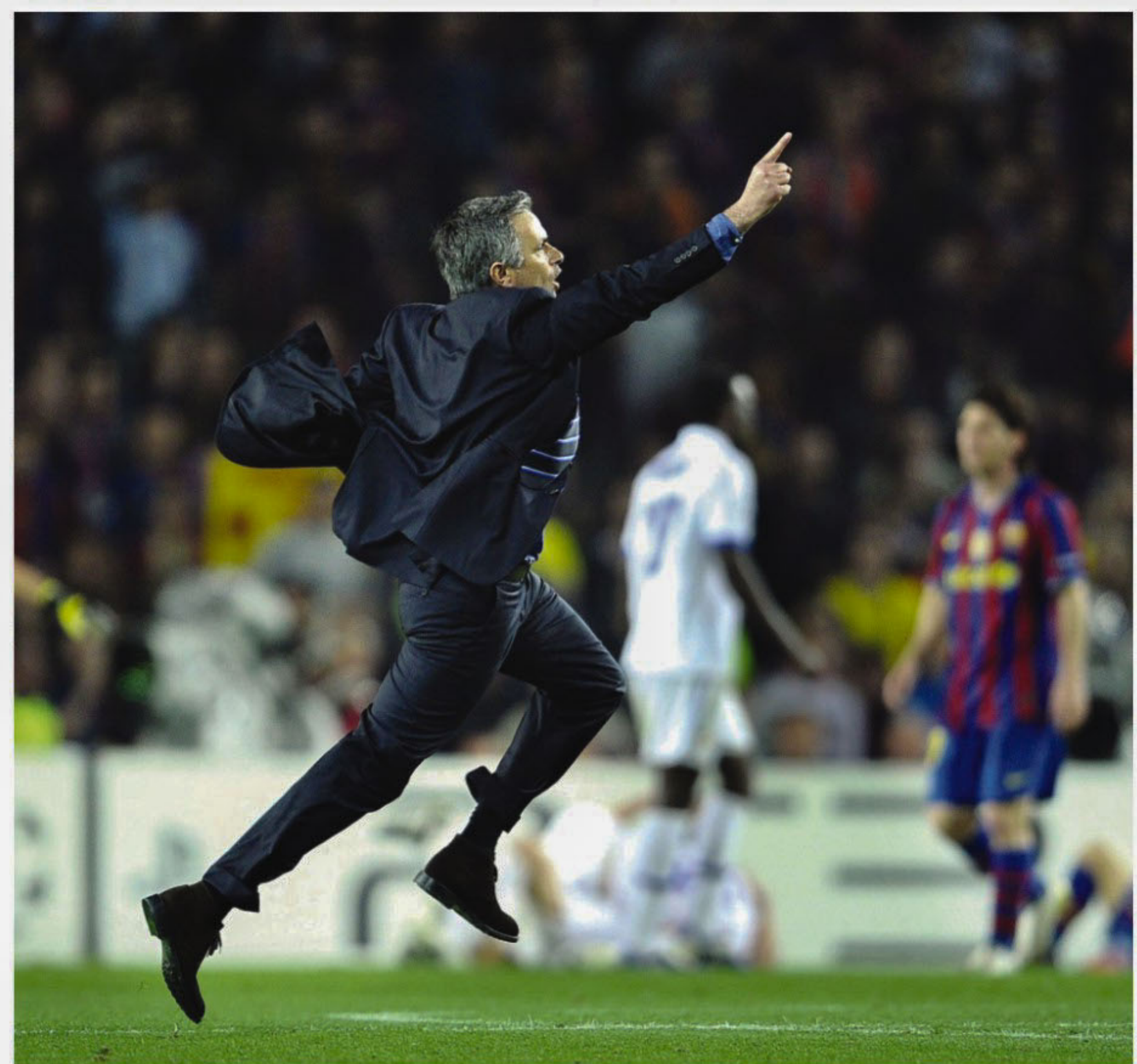
The IPL also highlights another dilemma for Twenty20 cricket. It is played so extensively at domestic level, but sparsely

on the international scene. New Zealand's seven matches are the most played by a team since the end of last year's World Twenty20. The Associate teams play it as frequently as anyone

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

### WORLD T20 FIXTURES

Date	Time (BST)	Match	Venue
Apr 30	11:00pm	New Zealand v Sri Lanka	Guyana
	3:00am (Sat)	West Indies v Ireland	Guyana
May 1	7:30pm	Afghanistan v India	St Lucia
	11:30pm	Bangladesh v Pakistan	St Lucia
May 2	7:30pm	India v South Africa	St Lucia
	11:30pm	Australia v Pakistan	St Lucia
May 3	7:30pm	Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe	Guyana
	11:30pm	West Indies v England	Guyana
May 4	7:30pm	New Zealand v Zimbabwe	Guyana
	11:30pm	England v Ireland	Guyana
May 5	7:30pm	Australia v Bangladesh	Barbados
	11:30pm	Afghanistan v South Africa	Barbados
SUPER EIGHTS			
May 6	7:30pm	TBC v TBC (A1 v D2)	Barbados
	11:30pm	TBC v TBC (C1 v B2)	Barbados
May 7	7:30pm	TBC v TBC (A2 v C2)	Barbados
	11:30pm	TBC v TBC (B1 v D1)	Barbados
May 8	7:30pm	TBC v TBC (A1 v B2)	Barbados
	11:30pm	TBC v TBC (D2 v C1)	Barbados
May 9	7:30pm	TBC v TBC (C2 v D1)	Barbados
	11:30pm	TBC v TBC (B1 v A2)	Barbados
May 10	7:30pm	TBC v TBC (A1 v C1)	St Lucia
	11:30pm	TBC v TBC (B2 v D2)	St Lucia
May 11	11:00pm	TBC v TBC (B1 v C2)	St Lucia
	3:00pm (Wed)	TBC v TBC (D1 v A2)	St Lucia
May 13	9:30pm	First Semifinal	St Lucia
May 14	9:30pm	Second Semifinal	St Lucia
May 16	9:30pm	Final	Barbados



A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR 'THE SPECIAL ONE': Inter Milan manager Jose Mourinho is ecstatic after knocking Barcelona out of the Champions League at Nou Camp on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP



## BCB Academy gain slim edge

SPORTS REPORTER

Sabbir Rahman hit 86 to help the home team to take a slim first innings lead against South Africa Academy team on the second day of the GP-BCB Academy Cup at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

Resuming the day on 107 for two, the GP-BCB National Academy team were all out for 260 to take a 38-run lead. Captain Mohammad Mithun, who started the day on 33, made the team highest 88 that came from 144 balls with 12 fours and three sixes.

Shubhagato Hom could manage only four runs to his overnight score of 20.

Six local batsmen failed to reach double digits which dashed the home side's hope of taking a healthy first innings lead.

South Africa Academy bounced back strongly as they scored 198 for two in their second innings. David Miller put the local bowlers to the sword hitting eight fours and five sixes during his 83-ball 92 while Dominic Hendricks was not out on 62.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

## Visitors dominate Day 1

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

South Africa A showed a strong batting display on the opening day of the second and final unofficial Test against Bangladesh A at BKSP yesterday.

The visiting side, who won the first four-day quite comfortably at Mirpur, scored 360 for 5 in 90 overs before stumps were drawn for the first day of the four-day encounter.

The second string South Africa side won the toss and decided to bat first and lost the first wicket with the scoreboard reading on 38 when occasional left-arm spinner Faisal Hossain removed Dean Elgar for 17 runs.

Rilee Rossouw joined Alviro Petersen to steady the ship as the pair added 112 runs in the second wicket stand. Petersen missed the hundred for eight runs as the day's most successful bowler Nur Hossain picked up his first

wicket by removing Petersen, who struck seven fours and a six during his 119-ball innings.

Rossouw remained not out on 81 runs along with skipper Thami Tsolekile, who hit eight boundaries during his unbeaten 137-ball 90.

The hosts captured two wickets in the middle when Stiaan Van Zyl was caught by Sahagir Hossain off Nur Hossain and Faisal dismissed Jonathan Vandiar.

But a 92-run fifth wicket partnership between Heino Kuhn and Tsolekile made sure the visitors finished the day on top.

Kuhn scored 48 runs off 90 balls that saw three boundaries before he was caught by Shahriar Nafees off Nur Hossain, who finished the day with a three wicket haul for 115 runs in 26 overs.

Faisal took two wickets for 76 runs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

South Africa A: First innings- 360-5 in 90 overs (Elgar 17, Petersen 92, Rossouw 81 not out, Zyl 9, Vandair 19, Kuhn 48, Tsolekile 90 not out, extras 4; Faisal 2-76, Nur 3-115).

from six divisions are taking part in the competition to be held in six divisional headquarters. The Khulna leg will take place on May 7, the Dhaka leg on May 14, Sylhet on May 15, Chittagong on May 21 and Rajshahi on May 28.

The final round involving the winners of the six divisions will be held in Dhaka on June 3.

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S CHESS

Holder Sharmin Sultana Shirin and last year's runner-up WFM Shamima Akter Liza maintained their joint lead in the Arlin Developer 31st National Women Chess Championship after the sixth round at the Narayanganj Club Auditorium yesterday.

Sharmin beat WFM Zakia Sultana while Shamima defeated Dilara Jahan Nupur in their respective boards to secure 5.5 points each from six outings.

Nazrana Khan Eva returned to winning ways beating Aeon Sarker to stay at the second position with five points. Masuda Begum was in third position with 4.5 points after beating Rokshana Titli.

In the day's other matches, WIM Rani Hamid beat Jahanara Haque Runu while Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moly beat Protiva Talukder.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

## 'Greatest night of my life'

AFP, Barcelona



Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho described his team's qualification for the Champions League final as the greatest moment of his life.

Inter beat Barcelona 3-2 on aggregate in their semi-final despite losing the second leg 1-0 and playing an hour of the game at the Nou Camp with 10 men.

Mourinho's Inter, who won the first game 3-1 last week, will face Bayern Munich in the final on May 22 in Madrid.

"It's the greatest moment of my career," said Mourinho. "For the players, me, the fans, it's the greatest."

Despite Gerard Pique's 84th-minute goal, defending champions Barcelona were unable to find the crucial second goal as 10-man Inter held on, breathing a sigh of relief when Bojan Krkic had a stoppage-time effort chalked off for handball.

Inter will be playing in their first European Cup final since 1972 while Mourinho will attempt to lead the Italian giants to Europe's most prestigious prize for the first time since 1965.

"It's been 38 years since Inter played in

the final. This is not a team of young players who can wait 15 years to make the final - they will not have another 10 opportunities to play in one.

"Against Barcelona, it's difficult with 11 players but with 10, it's an historic achievement to win like this. It's the most beautiful defeat of my life."

Mourinho's side survived the first half dismissal of Thiago Motta to blunt Barca's famous cutting edge where even Lionel Messi, with the exception of one first-half

chance, was largely anonymous.

"The season doesn't finish here," warned Mourinho, whose team are also in pole position to defend their Italian league title.

"We have five games left in all competitions. Tonight we will party, tomorrow we will sleep and after that prepare to face Lazio on Sunday.

"I ask the fans for another favour - come to Milan airport and welcome this splendid team home. Come to Rome on

Sunday for the game with Lazio and then come to the Italian Cup final next Wednesday.

"I was close to the fans when I was at Chelsea, but I am even closer to the Inter fans. I love Inter and the supporters, but not Italian football. I respect it, but I don't love it."

Inter's Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder paid tribute to Mourinho.

"The coach was screaming in the dressing room, it was very emotional," he said.

"We defended with 10 men for so long. We were compact, fought for every metre and gave everything. Mourinho always gets his tactics right to destroy the opponents."

"We did it in Milan and we did it again tonight but in a different way."

Barcelona president Joan Laporta appealed to the fans to get behind the team in their darkest hour.

"Today, it was our turn to suffer the cruel side of football," said Laporta.

"Now we must recover our morale for La Liga (where Barcelona are battling Real Madrid for the title). Now, more than ever, we have to support this team."

"I expected Inter to be defensive. It was hard to break down their two defensive

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

## Viv Richards Stadium set for return

AFP, Georgetown

Antigua's Sir Vivian Richards Stadium had its 12-month suspension lifted by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday and was passed fit to stage Tests and one-dayers again.

In February 2009 the ground was the scene of a Test match between the West Indies and England that lasted just 10 balls before being abandoned because of an outfield that was described in the ICC's report as unfit.

The ICC told the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) that the ground could not be used for international cricket for a period of 12 months and also gave the board an official warning for not preparing the ground effectively for the match.

As per ICC instructions, over the past year, appropriate work was carried out and monitored by the WICB and an inspection of the ground was carried out by Jeff Crowe of the ICC match referees panel.

David Richardson, ICC General Manager (Cricket), said: "We are content that the ground is now of sufficient standard to host international cricket again. The remedial work has been carried out and Mr Crowe has carried out a full inspection, during which he found the ground to be of a good standard."

## BU exact revenge

SPORTS REPORTER



Brothers Union took a sweet revenge of their first leg 2-1 away defeat when the struggling giants blanked Beanibazar SC 4-0 in their Bangladesh League

home match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

It was also the first victory for Brothers in eight matches and only their fourth in 19 matches in the league so far which raised their points tally to 21 while Beanibazar remained second from bottom with 13 from 18 games.

The Gopibagh-based outfit went ahead in the 37th minute when striker Murad Ahmed Milon coolly placed a rebound after Tanmoy Ahmed Taru saw his

powerful shot came off the bar and Brothers never looked behind the newcomers.

The All Orange outfit went for a comfortable breather with a 2-0 lead as Enock Bentil, availing on a fumble between Beanibazar defenders Ashraf and Bipul, doubled the margin in the stoppage time of the first-half.

After resumption, Ghanaian striker Bentil struck his seventh goal in the league to make it 3-0 as Beanibazar goalkeeper Sultan failed to grip the ball properly.

Maksudul Alam Bulbul sealed the fate of the game in the 77th minute, firing the ball from inside the box after capitalising on a long-ball from Lutfur Rahman Nayan.

Away at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong, a late effort from Chittagong Mohammedan helped them

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have launched their Davis Cup Asia Oceania Zone-3 Tennis campaign with a 2-1 loss against top seed Oman in Iran yesterday.

Country's top seed Amal Roy won his singles bout against Navani 6-4, 7-5 but that was not enough to avoid a defeat as Shibu Lal went down 6-3, 6-1 in the first game and in the doubles they lost by 3-6, 7-6 and 6-2.

Bangladesh will take on Vietnam today.

Seven countries Bangladesh, Lebanon, Oman, Vietnam, Kuwait, Syria and hosts Iran are taking part in the meet.

### DIVISIONAL BASKETBALL

Flame Boys Club, Hornets SC and Mohammadpur Basketball Club won their respective Premier Bank First Division Basketball League matches at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Flame Boys defeated the Gregarious Club 80-76, Hornets thrashed the Shaons Club 98-31 and Mohammadpur handed a 40-31 defeat on Old DOHS Club.

### DIVISIONAL KARATE

The Electra fourth Divisional Karate Championship will get underway from May 2 at Abdur Rob Serniabad Stadium in Barisal.

## What to WATCH

**Bangladesh League**  
Shuktara v Muktiyoddha  
Time: 3:30pm  
Venue: Narayanganj Stadium  
Arambagh v Feni Soccer Club  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

**Bangladesh A v South Africa A**  
2nd Unofficial Test, Day 2  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: BKSP

**BCB NCA v SA Academy**  
2nd 4-day Match, Day 3  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra

ফার্মসেট শাখায় ছেলে ও মেয়েদের  
সকাল ৮টা ও ১০টার ব্যাচে ভর্তি শেষ।  
শান্তিনগর শাখায় মেয়েদের সকাল ৮টা ও ১০টার ব্যাচে ভর্তি শেষ।

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১ম

৩০ এপ্রিল পর্যন্ত ঢাকার শাখা সমূহে ১০০০/- ছাড়

# রেটিনা

মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল এডভান্সড কন্সাল্টিং

শাহাবাবাদ ৮৬১৮৯৮৯, ০১৮১৬৭৮১৭৭১, ফার্মসেট (অকিত) ৮১০০৮৫১, ০১৮১৬৭৮১৭৭২, ফার্মসেট (কনকর্ড) ৮১১৫১১০, ০১৮১৬৭৮১৭৭৩  
শান্তিনগর ৮০৫২১৫২, ০১৮১৬৭৮১৭৭৪, যাত্রাবাড়ী ৭৫৫৪১৯৭, ০১৮১৬৭৮১৭৭৫