

**Khagrachhari cricket**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Guimara Sheikh Rusel Smrity Sangsad clinched the title of the T20 cricket tournament with an exciting two-run win over Matiranga Muslimpara Cricket club in the final at the Army Region Field in Ramgorh upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday.

Batting first, Guimara Union Sheikh Rusel Smrity Sangsad were bundled out for 89 with middle-order batsman Joyal Abedin scoring highest 23 off 14. Motaleb was the top taker to return three. In reply, Matiranga Muslimpara Club were skittled out for 87 in the face of some good bowling from Subash Dey, who picked up four scalps in the game to raise his tally to 10 in the tournament to be adjudged best bowler.

Tail-ender Al Mamun struck 23, but his effort was not enough to topple the Sheikh Rusel total. Later, Guimara Army region commander Brigadier General Mohammad Axazur Rahman distributed prizes among the winners.

**Manikganj Div I cricket**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Kamal claimed six wickets as Dashara Palli Mangal Samity posted a massive 147-run victory over Victoria Sporting Club in the Col (ret) Malek Smriti First Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Mirzapur stadium yesterday.

Dashara Palli Mangal Samity were all out for 196 runs in 38.4 overs. Lotus scored highest 38 runs while Atik added 28.

Apu picked up four wickets while Adil took three.

In reply, Victoria Sporting Club were bundled out for 49 runs in 13 overs.

Besides Kamal, Sohagh took four wickets for Dashara Palli Mangal Samity.

**DIV II CRICKET**  
Tiger Sporting Club clinched the title of the Khan Real Estate Second Division Cricket League with an 84-run victory over Retired XI at the Manikganj Government Boys' High School playground yesterday.

Emon hit an unbeaten 81 off 67 balls as Tiger Sporting Club made 171 for nine in 25 overs.

Jasim and Jony took two wickets each for Retired.

In reply, Retired XI were bundled out for 87 runs in 18.5 overs. Aslam top scored with 28.

Siba and Sabuj picked up three wickets each while Tanvir took two wickets for Tiger Sporting Club.

A total of 28 teams took part in the league.

**Premier v'ball**

SPORTS REPORTER

Power Development Board recorded a 3-0 win over Fire Service in the National Bank Dhaka Metropolis Premier Division Volleyball League at the Volley Stadium yesterday.

Bhai Bhai Sangha defeated East End Club 3-1 in the day's other match.

**Dhoni warns**

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He also appreciates that expectations could become unrealistic.

"We often get asked when we are going to beat Australia or Pakistan, so those are the questions we have to answer sometimes and we just have to calm them a little," he said.

"The good thing about the team is that at every level they have lifted their game. Everything about them has improved at each stage.

"I know there will be pressure; there will be the pressure of television, the pressure of the crowd but they are quick learners and I hope they will adjust to it."

**SA Academy**

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With an unbeaten 75 off 114 balls that saw ten boundaries.

Spinner Shaker Ahmed picked up four wickets for 97 runs.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**SOUTH AFRICA ACADEMY:** First innings- 222 and Second innings- 371-8 in 90.2 overs (Overnight 198-2) (Swanepoel 20, Hendricks 109, Miller 98, Zondo 39, Pienaar 75 not out, Moseleh 21, extras 2; Shaker 4-97, Hasan 1-68, Roy 1/71, Sajib 1-93)  
**GP-BCB ACADEMY:** First innings 260.



South Africa's Rory Klineveldt (R) celebrates after dismissing England's Kevin Pietersen for a first-ball duck during their ICC World Twenty20 warm-up match in Barbados on Thursday.

**Zimbabwe do it again**

AFP, Bridgetown



Zimbabwe humbled defending World Twenty20 champions Pakistan with a 12-run win in their final warm-up at St Lucia before the 2010 tournament gets underway on Friday.

Zimbabwe, who defeated Australia by one-run earlier in the week, made 143-7 from their 20 overs with big-hitting Elton Chigumbura smashing 49 not out from 35 balls to rescue his team from a precarious 64 for 5 in the 12th over.

Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi shone with the ball taking 4-24.

Kamran Akmal hit 37 from 27 balls as Pakistan started their reply, but they were in deep trouble at 67 for 5 after 10 overs.

Fawad Alam and Misbahul Haq added 51 in 7.4 overs for the sixth wicket, before spinner Prosper Utseya turned the game around for the Africans, getting rid of both men on his way to figures of 4 for 15 in four overs.

Pakistan finished on 131 with Chigumbura also starring with the ball, claiming 3 for 16 in three overs.

Pakistan begin their campaign on Saturday against Bangladesh in St Lucia while Zimbabwe start against Sri Lanka in Guyana on Monday.

In Thursday's other warm-ups, Australia recovered from their defeat to Zimbabwe by

crushing the Windward Islands by 101 runs, also at St Lucia.

David Warner hit 51, his second successive half-century, and David Hussey made 49 as Australia piled up 189-8 off their 20 overs before the Windwards were dismissed for just 88.

Australia play their first group match against Pakistan in St Lucia on Sunday.

At Barbados, England defeated South Africa by five wickets.

South Africa were limited to 125-5 off their 20 overs before Eoin Morgan top-scored with 63 from 62 balls to lead England to victory after his side had been reeling 4-9-3.

England face West Indies in Guayna on Monday while South Africa start against India in St Lucia on Sunday.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**AUSTRALIA:** 189-8 in 20 overs (Warner 51, Hussey 49; Matthew 3-34)  
**WINDWARD ISLANDS:** 88 in 20 overs.  
**Result:** Australia win by 101 runs.

**ZIMBABWE:** 143-7 in 20 overs (Chigumbura 49 not out; Afridi 4-24)  
**PAKISTAN:** 131 in 20 overs (Utseya 4-15, Chigumbura 3-16)  
**Result:** Zimbabwe won by 12 runs.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 125-5 in 20 overs.  
**ENGLAND:** 127-5 in 19.3 overs (Morgan 63)  
**Result:** England won by 5 wickets.

**Nadal sails, Murray fails**



AFP, Rome

Claycourt king Rafael Nadal was at his dominant best as he trounced Romania's Victor Hanesu 6-3, 6-2 to storm into the ATP Rome Masters 1000 quarterfinals at the Foro Italico on Thursday.

Earlier Spanish 13th seed David Ferrer upset world number four Andy Murray 6-4, 6-4 while world number two Novak Djokovic had few problems in disposing of Brazilian Thomaz Bellucci 6-4, 6-4.

Nadal blasted 31 winners and broke Hanesu three times, winning in one hour 22 minutes, as he goes in search of a fifth title here in six years.

He broke Hanesu to love in the fourth game of the first set following a sumptuous backhand crosscourt pass and a forehand winner down the line.

Having served out the set the world number three broke the Romanian in the first game of the second after a pair of

passes, one off each flank.

When he broke again for a 4-1 lead it seemed all over for Hanesu, although the Romanian briefly rallied but he could not convert any of four break points in the next game.

Nadal admitted that he had taken his foot off the gas.

"I stopped playing a little bit and relaxed. I played with less intensity at 4-1 and I was over-confident," he said.

"It's impossible to play with less intensity at this level, he's a good player."

Hanesu had one more break point in the final game of the match but having saved that, Nadal sealed victory with a smash.

The Spaniard now plays Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka who beat fifth-seeded Swede Robin Soderling 6-3, 6-2.

"That's a big result, he's playing well and will have a lot of confidence," said Nadal of Wawrinka.

Murray struggled badly with his serve throughout his

match on his least favourite surface, recording a pitifully low 41 per cent of first serves.

That gave clay specialist Ferrer the chance to attack the Murray second serve and he broke once in each set to secure the victory.

The 22-year-old Scot at times appeared listless as seen on the final point when he dropped a weak forehand into the net.

However, the Brit said he was happy with his performance.

"I thought it was a good match, a high standard, there were a lot of good points, I just didn't convert my chances," he said.

"I didn't make enough returns and he served a very high percentage so that was the only disappointing thing. I wasn't able to create many break point opportunities because that's normally the best part of my game."

Ferrer will face French seventh seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga who comfortably dispatched Colombian qualifier Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 6-4.

Djokovic, who has a good record here having won the tournament two years ago and reached the final in 2009, will next face Spanish sixth seed Fernando Verdasco who beat countryman Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

The pair played in the semi-finals in Monte Carlo a couple of weeks ago with an out-of-sorts Djokovic going down 6-2, 6-2.

"He's had a great couple of weeks on clay and he's certainly one of the best in the world at the moment," said the Serbian.

"He doesn't make many mistakes and it will certainly be a tough match, I wouldn't put myself as the favourite, for sure. But if I play the aggressive game I should play I'll have a good chance."

The shortest match of the day came between 11th seed Ivan Ljubicic and Spaniard Feliciano Lopez.

The veteran Croat came out for the warm-up but suffered a recurrence of a back problem and promptly retired before the first ball was hit in anger.

Ernesto Gulbis, who stunned world number one Roger Federer in the previous round, reached the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7/4) win over Italy's Filippo Volandri.

**The Sachin mango**

AFP, New Delhi

A new variety of mango has been named after India's record-breaking batsman Sachin Tendulkar in honour of his cricketing success, an Indian television channel reported Friday.

Farmer Kalimullah Khan told India's NDTV news channel that he has created a hybrid variety of the creamy, sweet-tasting fruit by combining two of the finest Indian varieties, including the chausa.

"There is no player like Sachin Tendulkar in the whole world and that's why I have named this mango Sachin," the elderly farmer, from Malihabad in Lucknow district, northern Uttar Pradesh state, told NDTV.

Tendulkar, 37, is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest batsmen and has iconic status in India. He is also the first Indian sportsman to have a waxwork figure at London's famous Madame Tussauds museum.

India is the world's largest producer of mangoes. The Alphonso mango, grown in Tendulkar's home state of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, is seen by locals as the "king of fruits."

The Sachin mango, though, will not go on sale.

"Our Sachin is a world hero and he is priceless and not a saleable commodity," said Khan, who plans to donate a tree of Sachin mangoes to the cricketer "so he can enjoy them with his friends."

Khan has produced nearly 300 new mango varieties and won India's top civilian award for his work on mango grafting and cultivation.

He told the news channel he is working on a new hybrid fruit to be named after the legendary Bollywood singer Lata Mangeshkar.

**Div I b'ball**

SPORTS REPORTER

Europa Youth Club registered a comprehensive 91-35 win over Cantonians Club in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball League at Dhanomdi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

Europa dominated the first half 43-15. Nahid and Moshir scored 26, 19 respectively for the winners while Shahinoor caged nine points for the losers.

**Waqar sees a different Pakistan**

AFP, Gros Islet



Pakistan coach Waqar Younis believes the slack approach that marred the team's winless tour of Australia has been replaced by a new spirit of determination ahead of the World Twenty20.

Defending champions Pakistan face Group A rivals Bangladesh and Australia here at the Beausejour Stadium, on Saturday and Sunday respectively, and fast bowling great Waqar is adamant they will do so with a renewed professionalism.

"I've seen the change from Australia to Pakistan," Waqar told reporters here on Thursday.

"The boys have really started responding. In Australia I was part of the team and the boys were a little laid back, not really bothered."

Pakistan's recent tour of Australia saw them fail to win in three Tests, five one-day internationals and a Twenty20.

Even by the standards of Pakistani cricket, the fall-out was dramatic with former captains Mohammad Yousuf and Younus Khan receiving indefinite bans for infighting.

Meanwhile Shoaib Malik and Navedul Hasan were both suspended for a year while Shahid Afridi, Pakistan's captain at the World Twenty20, and the Akmal brothers, Kamran and Umar, were fined and put on probation for six months each.

"I don't know if it's got anything to do with

the bannings or what, but they have really started pushing themselves," Waqar said.

"I wouldn't say they're scared but they've probably started thinking it's a professional game and they get paid for it and there's a country's (honour) at stake."

Perhaps only in Pakistan could Afridi find himself captaining the national side after receiving a two-match Twenty20 ban for ball tampering, caused by chewing on the ball, in a one-dayer against Australia in Perth.

But there is no denying the dynamic batsman and dangerous leg-spinner's talent, especially in the Twenty20 format, and Waqar reckons Afridi is a reformed character.

"I think so, he has probably realised and he wants to do more," Waqar said.

"And I think he is the best choice as captain. He is an all-rounder and he leads from the front."

Afridi took four wickets in Pakistan's 12-run warm-up loss to Zimbabwe on Thursday and Waqar added: "He is bowling superbly, he is a match-winning bowler. And with his quick 30-odd off 10 balls or whatever, that really puts the game in your favour."

Former captain Waqar, brought in a bowling coach on the Australian tour, found himself promoted to the senior role in March.

"It wasn't easy to take over this job," he said. "It was difficult but I'm managing it okay. The suspensions were done before I took the job, I couldn't do anything about it."

"Whatever I've got, it's the best we've got in Pakistan, so we've got to make do with this."

**Force India no longer a minnow**

AFP, London



The Force India Formula One racing team has shrugged off its place among the minnows and soon podium positions, according to in-form driver Vitantonio Liuzzi.

The 29-year-old Italian and his Force India teammate German Adrian Sutil have scored points in three of the four season-opening Grands Prix and looked fast and strong in qualifying.

Now, with the progressive backing of team owner Dr Vijay Mallya, who is also chairman of both United Breweries and Kingfisher Airlines, as well as owner of the Bangalore Royal Challengers in cricket's Indian Premier League, Liuzzi reckons Force India are set to grow even stronger.

And he hopes they can prove themselves again with another strong showing in next week's Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona.

Mallya has declared it is his ambition to see his team fighting for a victory next year when India's inaugural Grand Prix is due to take place at a purpose-built facility near Delhi,

and Liuzzi believes the team is on course to realise that dream.

"When you start having results and you start scoring points, then you feel much stronger," he said. "You feel better because you see your efforts have paid off. And also it is good because it's not just your confidence that goes up - the confidence of the whole team goes up, too."

"That is an important thing, especially for a team like our one. We are doing big things, we are scoring points consistently and we have shown that we are no longer a small team. These things keep you alive -- keep you believing and keep you moving forward."

Liuzzi added that Force India has moved forward from its promising end to 2009 - a progress that is evidence of how strong the team has become.

But, he conceded, he knows also that there remains a big challenge in keeping the improvements going to stay on course with the team owner's goals.

"Even last year I was saying that Force India will surprise some people, because it has a really strong group of people. There are really great people working there, great technical people, great mechanics, and everyone is working really well together," he said.



The joint champions of the Young Tigers (U-18) cricket tournament Rajshahi South and Khulna Division pose with chief guest acting district commissioner Mohammad Shamsul Alam in Dinajpur yesterday.

**Lazio face Inter dilemma**

AFP, Rome



Lazio fans are faced with a dilemma this weekend as the Roman club hosts champions Inter Milan at the Stadio Olimpico.

Inter are embroiled in a tense title battle with Lazio's bitter local rivals AS Roma and their fans know that if their club beats the nerazzurri on Sunday, they could help Roma win the scudetto.

With three games left, Inter lead Roma by two points and Lazio's fans would hate nothing more than to do their Rome rivals a favour.

But Lazio are not clear of relegation and coach Eddy Reja insists that he won't be following the lead of some fans, who have claimed they will be supporting Inter.

"We know that it's like this but we're not safe yet. If we play like we did (last time out against Genoa) I don't think we'll lose to Inter," he said.

"I'm sure we'll get a result, also because we need to. We'll tackle Inter as we did Roma (two weeks ago)."

"The derby didn't go well (a 2-1 defeat) but we hope things

will change against Inter. It will be difficult because we're playing against a top drawer team but we'll try."

Lazio are six points from the dreaded drop zone with three games left and know that any result will virtually assure them of safety while either a win or a draw could ensure they stay up should Atalanta lose.

They are in good form having won four of their last five games, including a 2-1 success at Genoa last weekend.

Not to mention that Inter will be tired from their grueling defensive efforts in Barcelona on Wednesday night.

Coach Jose Mourinho knows how vulnerable his team will be after a tough European commitment away from home and has called on the club's fans to descend in their droves on the capital, although he probably wasn't expecting supporters wearing sky blue to also be cheering for his team.

Inter may have already dropped to second by the time they take to the field on Sunday as Roma travel to Parma on Saturday evening looking to rebound from their

shock 2-1 home defeat to Sampdoria last weekend.

That defeat, after a 24-match unbeaten run in the league, did much to deflate the growing euphoria that had developed amongst the club's fans as they saw their team wipe out a 14-point deficit to Inter since November and actually overtake the champions.

But while the fans have calmed down over the last week, the players and staff at Roma seemed happy at Inter's Champions League progress, possibly hoping that the final will occupy the players' thoughts and distract them from domestic matters.

"Inter were solid, organised and tenacious against Barcelona," said Roma captain Francesco Totti on the club's website.

"Congratulations to the nerazzurri on reaching the final. Considering how they played at home and away they undoubtedly deserved to go through."

Roma's three remaining opponents, starting with Parma, are all in mid-table safety with no hope either of qualifying for Europe or of getting relegated.

But Roma's problem last week was an inability to convert their chances in the first half against Sampdoria, during which time they should have put the game to bed.

They will have to be more clinical this time out if they are to stand any chance of capturing the title.

Elsewhere the battle for fourth place and the final Champions League spot is raging with Sampdoria in pole position and hosting rock-bottom and already relegated Livorno.

Palermo trail them by two points and face a trip to Siena who are all but mathematically down.

Atalanta occupy the final relegation position and trail Bologna by five points, knowing that if they lose to their opponents they will be down.

**FIXTURES**

<b>Saturday</b>	AC Milan v Fiorentina, Parma v AS Roma
<b>Sunday</b>	Atalanta v Bologna, Bari v Genoa, Cagliari v Udinese, Catania v Juventus, Chievo v Napoli, Lazio v Inter Milan, Sampdoria v Livorno, Siena v Palermo