

**Khulna crush Cox's Bazar**

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna destroyed the Cox's Bazar top-order for no score and went on to win the game by nine wickets in the second round game of the 32nd inter-district cricket championship at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

Ahmed Hossain, Humayun Kabir and Nurul Azam, the top three of the Cox's Bazar batting line-up, fell for ducks as pacemen Masum Khan and Reazul Islam ran riot.

Masum and Shafiqul Alam ended with three wickets while Reazul took two and though the hapless opposition somewhat revived themselves to score 108 runs in 39.5 overs, it was never going to be enough.

Khulna won the game in 21.1 overs with Shafiqul making an unbeaten 45 off 64 balls with the help of eight boundaries and a six.

**NATIONAL TENNIS Sarda, Ishita in final**

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Alam Sarda set up women's singles final clash against Isheta Afroz in the Samsung National Tennis Championship. Sarda defeated Moumita Jannat Mou 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinal at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

In the men's singles, top-seed Amol Roy, Anwar Hossain, Dipu Lal and Alamgir Hossain moved into the semifinals after beating their respective rivals in quarterfinals.

In men's doubles, the Amol Roy and Ranjan Ram pair confirmed their semifinal berth with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Mizanur Rahman-Selimpair.

Sarker pair and Isheta Afroz and Ayesha Sultana pair will face-off in the women's doubles final.

**To Bolt from the blue**

AFP, London

Reigning Olympic champion Usain Bolt has said that he is looking for another breathtaking performance at the London Games, aiming to go as fast as possible for the 100 and 200 metres.

"People are looking forward to me running 9.4, 19 seconds, anything that's amazing," the 25-year-old Jamaican told the BBC in an interview to mark the 100-day countdown to the start of the Games in the British capital on Wednesday.

"So, I'm working as hard as possible so I can go as fast as possible."

Bolt was one of the main stars of the last Games in Beijing four years ago, winning gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay, establishing him as one of the greatest sprinters of all time.

The sprinter clocked world records of 9.69secs and 19.30secs in the 100m and 200m, while the Jamaican team's 37.10secs in the 4x100m was also a new world best.

Bolt cemented his position in the sporting pantheon by lowering his own world records to 9.58secs for the 100m and 19.19secs for the 200m at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin.

**PCB's security**

FROM PAGE 16 already promised to send their officials, and the security plan that was sought is merely a formality.

Despite Ashraf's hope, the prolonged procedure will take long enough to rush the BCB into taking its decision to tour, in which event they have to convince the players and their parents, name a proper squad and ask them to train ahead of the tour. Such hurried decision-making can only come from someone who is highly motivated to send the team to Pakistan.



**FINALLY SOMETHING TO DO:** The Rajshahi team are in good spirits during training at the Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday, ahead of their tomorrow's National Cricket League match against Sylhet at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The game will mark the resumption of domestic cricket that has been suspended since March 28.

**Lyon gives Aus lead**

Cricket

AFP, Port of Spain

West Indies struck two crucial blows in Australia's second innings as the visitors reached 40 for two before rain interrupted play and lunch was called on the fourth morning of the second Test in Trinidad yesterday.

After losing a clutch of wickets on the third evening to Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon to finish the day on 252 for 9, the hosts could only add five more to the total before Kemar Roach became Lyon's sixth scalp, caught behind by wicketkeeper Matthew Wade.

Starting their second innings 54 runs in front, Australia lost opener David Warner with the score on 26, caught at slip by Darren Bravo off fast bowler Roach. It was a double delight for Roach as he bowled Shane Watson for a duck in the same over. Opener Ed Cowan was unbeaten on 14 and Ricky Ponting was batting on 8 when the rain intervened.

On the third day, a spell of five for sixteen by Australian off-spinner Lyon put Australia in charge.

It was the first time that Lyon had taken five wickets in an innings since his debut Test in Sri Lanka.

"I'm over the moon, even though I didn't run around like I did in Galle," Lyon said. "Still over the moon and really happy with the way things panned out but, saying that, we've still got a lot of work to do to win this Test match."

West Indies finished the day at 252 for nine, still trailing by 59 runs, having, at one point, looked as though they would have a lead after a sterling fifth partnership work from Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Narsingh Deonarine roused home hope before tea.

But Lyon gave Australia a good chance of wrapping up the three-match series after they won the first Test in Barbados.

**SCOREBOARD**  
AUSTRALIA: First innings 311 all out (Hussey 73, Watson 56; Roach 5-105, Shillingford 3-92)  
WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 252 for 9)

Barath lbw b Beer	7
Brathwaite lbw b Hilfenhaus	19
Powell lbw b Pattinson	0
Bravo lbw b Hussey	38
Chanderpaul lbw b Lyon	94
Deonarine st Wade b Lyon	55
Baugh lbw Beer	21
Sammy c Hussey b Lyon	1
Shillingford c Cowan b Lyon	4
Roach c Wade b Lyon	0
Edwards not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-1, nb-8)	18
Total: (All out in 104.4 overs)	257
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-26, 3-38, 4-100, 5-230, 6-231, 7-237, 8-241, 9-249, 10-257.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Beer	25.4	9	56	2
Hilfenhaus	16	4	39	1
Lyon	29	9	68	5
Pattinson	11	2	40	1
Hussey	6	1	19	1
Watson	12	5	14	0
Warner	3	1	9	0
Clarke	2	0	3	0

**AUSTRALIA: Second innings**

Cowan not out	14
Warner c Bravo b Roach	17
Watson b Roach	0
Ponting not out	8
Extras: (nb-1)	1
Total: (For 2 wks in 20 overs)	40
To bat: Clarke, Hussey, Wade, Beer, Hilfenhaus, Lyon, Pattinson.	
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-26.	

**KKR make light work of Punjab**

SPORT DESK

Kolkata Knight Riders cruised to an 8-wicket victory over Kings XI Punjab in their IPL T20 encounter at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali yesterday. Chasing a modest victory target of 125, Kolkata finished off with 21 balls to spare losing only two wickets, courtesy of an unbeaten 44-ball 66 from skipper Gautam Gambhir.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis played the supporting role with a 30 not-out and finished the run-chase with a six.

Out-of-form Kiwi batsman Brendon McCullum, who replaced all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, struggled for his 18-ball 15 while wicketkeeper-batsman Manvirendra Bisla scored 11 runs.

Both were dismissed by the Piyush Chawla who finished with figures of 2 for 19. The win lifted Kolkata to third position in the 9-team table with 6 points from six matches.

Earlier, Kolkata produced a disciplined bowling and fielding display to restrict Punjab to 124 for seven, with Australian speedster Brett Lee and West Indies off-spinner Sunil Narine claiming two wickets each.

Captain Adam Gilchrist, who retired hurt in the sixth over with a right hamstring problem only to return later to drag his side out of trouble, top-scored with an unbeaten 40, while Shaun Marsh made a 30-ball 33 with the help of four boundaries. But their efforts proved too little in the end.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**KINGS XI PUNJAB:** 124 for 7 (Gilchrist 40 not out, Marsh 33; Lee 2-26, Narine 2-24).  
**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS:** 127 for 2 in 16.3 overs (Gambhir 66 not out, Kallis 30 not out; Chawla 2-19).  
**Result:** Kolkata Knight Riders win by 8 wickets.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Gautam Gambhir.

**Zaka banks on Tigers'**

FROM PAGE 16

"I had a good meeting with BCCI president (Narayanan) Srinivasan and this time he was more positive on the revival of the ties," said Ashraf of his talk on the sidelines of International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in Dubai.

"I thank the ICC Board for the way they appreciated the revival of cricket and approved of it."

"The situation is not like it was in 2009. Since cricket was suspended in Pakistan our grounds were left deserted but things have improved and I hope more teams will come after the Bangladesh team's tour."

Ashraf said convincing Bangladesh to tour was a victory for fans of the game.

"Cricket is a passion in Pakistan and convincing Bangladesh to tour is a victory for all of us and now even a single policeman will do his best to give the visitors full security," he said.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said a comprehensive security plan will be approved by the federal government and will be forwarded to the ICC shortly.

The Bangladesh team is due to arrive on April 27. They play a 50-over game on April 29 and a Twenty20 the following day.

**Gayle breaks Tia's nose**

AFP, New Delhi

West Indies batsman Chris Gayle Wednesday visited a girl in hospital who suffered a broken nose after being hit by one of his sixes as she watched from the stands at an Indian Premier League match.

The Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) opener smashed eight sixes, including five in a row off leg-spinner Rahul Sharma, during an explosive innings that helped his team beat the Pune Warriors on Tuesday evening.

Gayle said on Twitter that after learning one of his strikes had hit the young fan, named only as Tia, he decided to go and visit her at a hospital in Bangalore.

"Her 1st word to me is to Chill, She's fine!" he wrote.

The left-handed opener, who was named man of the match, cracked a 48-ball 81 in a magnificent display of power-hitting to help Bangalore surpass Pune's challenging total of 182 with six wickets to spare in a last-ball finish.

"She was thrilled to meet Gayle, who also presented his medal [for hitting maximum sixes in the match] to her," RCB manager Avinash Vaidya told AFP, saying the girl was thought to be aged about 10.

The 32-year-old Jamaican has so far scored 6,373 runs in 91 Tests with 13 centuries and 8,087 runs in 228 one-day internationals with 19 hundreds.

Gayle has not played for his national side since last year's World Cup and has been involved in a long-running dispute with the West Indies cricket board.

The 76-match IPL tournament has nine teams playing each other on a home-and-away basis before the top four sides qualify for the play-offs. The final will be played on May 27.

Pune now have six points and Bangalore four after five matches.

**'Mission Presidency'**

FROM PAGE 16

"Mustafa Kamal, the BCB president, has often dangled the prospect of a visit to Pakistan to curry favour, amounting until now to a string of broken promises."

"The PCB has long been wary. But their need for international cricket to resume in Pakistan has compelled them into the agreement whereby both boards nominate Kamal for the ICC vice-presidency and eventual presidency [it is their turn under the ICC's current rotational system of presidential appointment in which two boards put up a joint candidate]. In turn, Kamal sends Bangladesh for a tour."

"As recently as last October, a senior PCB official confided that they would nominate any official from Bangladesh other than Kamal, so little did they trust him."

Samiuddin goes on to say that the tour, which consists of a one-day international and a T20 international on April 29 and April 30 respec-

tively, will hold little if any benefit for Bangladesh cricket.

"This is the kind of crass realpolitik that drive the biggest calls in cricket. For those who think it is not self-interest, what real benefit does Bangladesh derive from playing a solitary ODI and T20 in Pakistan? Only the PCB benefit from this and Kamal."

"Nobody is naive enough to be surprised by that, but the fact must be logged each time it occurs otherwise we become inured to it."

Samiuddin concludes that Bangladesh's tour is not the "leap of faith" that many optimists may imagine.

"At some stage it was always going to require one country to take a leap of faith and tour Pakistan."

"This looks and smells like one. "But it isn't." That fact seems obvious to all but those making the decisions.

**Nadal not in pain**

Tennis

AFP, Monte Carlo

Rafael Nadal emerged a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Jarkko Nieminen with no obvious discomfort to his troublesome left knee as the Spaniard began his quest for a record eighth title at the Monte Carlo Masters on Wednesday.

Nadal, now 40-1 at the venue where he lost his only match in 2003, won his 38th straight game in the principality as he overcame stubborn resistance from the Finn ranked 48th who claimed the Sydney title in January.

Nadal, who required two weeks of knee treatment after failing to play his Miami semifinal match due to pain, has not lifted a trophy since the French Open ten months ago.

The second seed joined world number one Novak Djokovic in moving through a clay-season opener in straight sets on a cloudy day on the Mediterranean coast.

Djokovic began with a 6-1, 6-4, victory over Andreas Seppi, taking a 5-0 lead over the 44th-ranked Italian and breaking for an early lead in the second on the way to his seventh win in the series.

"I served really well when I needed to," said Djokovic. "That's encouraging for the clay, it's

good to have a couple of free points there. "I was really focused first set and played it well against a tough, quality opponent who plays good on clay. For the first official match since Roland Garros last year, it was satisfying."

The top seed will next play 16th seed Alexandr Dolgoplov, who put out new Monte Carlo resident Bernard Tomic 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.

"He's a very talented player, comes up with some shots that are not really typical," said Djokovic of Dolgoplov. "He changes the pace and is very dangerous on clay."

"I need to be aware and disciplined on the court. I need to try not to be frustrated with the rhythm that he comes up with."

Three of four other seeds also reached the third round, with Serb number seven Janko Tipsarevic advancing over Spain's Albert Montanes 6-2, 6-3.

Number eight Nicolas Almagro beat Italian Potito Starace 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 while number nine Frenchman Gilles Simon won a match that began at the early hour of 10:30, beating Frederico Gil of Portugal 6-3, 6-0.

Julien Benneteau registered a French win as he put out 2011 semifinalist and 15th seed Jurgen Melzer 6-4, 6-3. Mikhail Kukushkin beat Italy's Filippo Volandri 7-6 (10/8), 2-6, 6-2 and Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka beat Pablo Andujar 7-5, 6-3.

**Botham thinks the world of England**

Cricket

AFP, London

Sir Ian Botham expects England to hold onto their world number one status for "quite a while now" provided they learn from the disappointments of their recent series with Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

England climbed to the top of the Test match rankings after whitewashing India 4-0 in England last year.

But no sooner had they reached the top of the International Cricket Council's standings, Andrew Strauss's side were beaten 3-0 by Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates and fell behind in Sri Lanka before drawing a two-match series 1-1.

"England are a good team," former captain Botham, one of England's greatest all-rounders, said Tuesday.

"I don't know what went wrong in the first part of the (northern hemisphere) winter. It was really weird, all of that."

"The bowlers were magnificent throughout and it has to be said the batsmen just didn't turn up."

"Why that is, I haven't got a clue -- and I don't think they know."

"But they are still number one and I think they are going to stay at number one for quite a while now."

Botham added: "I think this winter is part of the learning curve. Sometimes you can go in at number one and get a little blasé."

"Suddenly you get bitten on the bum. In professional sport that's what happens."

"If you put your guard down, someone will bite you on the bum but I think England will come good again now."

"England have got a busy schedule with West Indies, South Africa, India, New Zealand on the horizon."

"There is a lot of cricket over the next three or four years that is going to be exciting but England will be up to it."

"A lot is being made of the challenge England will face with the spin in India next winter. I think we are all blowing that up too much."

"It's a bit of mind games and England are better than that. They won't worry too much

about that." Botham also backed Strauss to stay on as captain despite the left-handed opener suffering two poor series with the bat.

"You are always going to get over-the-top stuff. You are always going to get that with certain elements of the media."

"It's like Kevin Pietersen. Two or three weeks ago some people wanted Kevin Pietersen out. What planet are these people on?"

"Strauss is good enough to carry on for another couple of years. He deserves to."

Botham was speaking at the conclusion of the Birmingham-Clent Hills leg of his latest walk across Britain in aid of raising funds for leukaemia research.

The England hero has raised millions of pounds in an effort to combat leukaemia, a form of cancer, since undertaking his first charity walk nearly 30 years ago and is in no mood to stop now.

"I'm 56 approaching 57. I want to do something in my 60th year so I've got plenty of time to work on that," he said.

"I am also doing something in Sri Lanka, another project which we are going to recce in November and hopefully undertake the following year."

**Four for president**

FROM PAGE 16 taking part in the much-talked election and among them, the Combined Consensus Panel led by Kazi Salahuddin and Badal Roy is considered the strongest one while other two groups the Combined Sports Development Panel and a rebel group, failed to fulfill their slot of candidates.

"The reason I have decided to run for the election again is that I have accomplished 50 percent of the work I intended and I want to accomplish the rest in the next term. I have kept my promise and kept football rolling for 10 to 12 months and I think I deserve to be elected again," said Salahuddin after submitting his nomination paper at the BFF House yesterday.

"I can't say that the present committee is a failure but they could not get football rolling at the district level and I will revive the district football if I am elected," said another candidate Rahim.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>36</b> Wrestling surface	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>22</b> Parched
<b>1</b> Humpty's perch	<b>37</b> Storefront sign abbr.	<b>1</b> Greet silently	<b>23</b> Cudgel
<b>5</b> — out (relax)	<b>38</b> DJ's creation	<b>2</b> Winged mouse link	<b>24</b> Man-
<b>8</b> Applaud	<b>41</b> Twosome	<b>3</b> Key — pie	<b>25</b> Martini ingredient
<b>12</b> Others (Lat.)	<b>42</b> Ostrich's cousin	<b>4</b> Once around the	<b>26</b> Spacecraft compartment
<b>13</b> Mrs. McKinley	<b>45</b> Tresses	<b>5</b> Migratory songbird	<b>27</b> Scale member
<b>14</b> Helper	<b>46</b> Short-circuits the ignition	<b>6</b> Biblical garden	<b>28</b> Comedian Philips
<b>15</b> Dracula's ilk	<b>48</b> Slave to cross-words?	<b>7</b> Petrol	<b>29</b> Morning moisture
<b>17</b> Nasty	<b>49</b> Joan of —	<b>8</b> S'mores are often cooked over them	<b>31</b> Lustrous black
<b>18</b> Before	<b>50</b> Work-bench attachment	<b>9</b> Stead	<b>34</b> Remiss
<b>19</b> Fellows	<b>51</b> Nays' opponents	<b>10</b> Jewish month	<b>35</b> Forehead
<b>20</b> Reject disdainfully	<b>52</b> — jongg	<b>11</b> Teller's partner	<b>37</b> Starsky's pal
<b>21</b> Quid pro —	<b>53</b> 12 months	<b>16</b> Don of radio fame	<b>38</b> Perlman of "Cheers"
<b>22</b> 3, on the phone		<b>20</b> Vast expanse	<b>39</b> Simple
<b>23</b> Counterfeit		<b>21</b> Marshes	<b>40</b> Gold digger's place?
<b>26</b> Spoke highly of			<b>41</b> Nickelodeon's explorer
<b>30</b> Met melody			<b>42</b> Great Lake
<b>31</b> Bliss			<b>43</b> Arizona city
<b>32</b> Italy's capital			<b>44</b> Addict
<b>33</b> "Oh, what a — web we weave..."			<b>46</b> Easter entree, often
<b>35</b> Underneath			<b>47</b> Wall climber

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

PEP	ATE	OKAY
OARS	LOX	NICE
PROM	IMP	EDEN
ENDOW	BOIL	
KEN	SCUFFS	
JANITOR	SMILE	
OMEN	WOW	PLAT
SERGE	BAZOOKA	
SNOOTY	DOR	
RAIN	OTTTER	
MAIN	KIT	WADI
ALSO	ENE	OBIS
DAMN	SEA	SEE

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