

Sport

Seven teams into final round



Sports Reporter
 main run-getters for Nar-singhi.
 Nasir took three for four for Mymensingh.
 Mymensingh posted 138 runs in 22.2 overs to skim an easy win. Sunny with 52 not out and Nadim with 47 were the major scorers for the winners.
 At Pabna, Jessore out-classed Kushtia by eight wickets.
 Winning the toss Kushtia decided to bat first and collected 113 runs in 35.3 overs.
 Tapan top scored with 33 for Kushtia.
 Jessore bowler Babu sent three Kushtia batsmen back giving 19 runs.
 Jessore made 117 runs for two in 24.1 overs.
 Raju and Azim, with scores of 41 and 37 respectively, were the main contributors for the winners.
 Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), registered a 72 run win over Jhalakathi at the Barisal zone encounter.
 Two superb innings a century (102) by Nipu and Selims 73, helped BUET piling up 259 runs for seven in the stipulated 45 overs.
 Bachchu was most successful among the Jhalakathi bowlers capturing three for 56.
 Jhalakathi, chasing a huge winning target of 260, were all out for 187 in 40 overs.
 Amitabh contributed 45 for the losers.
 Kaiser claimed three for 29 for the winners.
 At Jhenidah, Satkhira won against Barisal by 29 runs.

Satkhira made 186 in 45 overs with Dipu and Prince being the major scorers with 57 and 39 respectively.
 Majeed got three for 27 for the losers.
 Barisal fell 29 runs, short of their target 187 when they were all out for 157 in 43.1 overs.
 Asif and Tutan scored 37 and 36 respectively for the losers.
 At a Rangpur zone encounter Dinajpur defeated Bogra by four wickets.
 Bogra batted first and were all out for 159 in 42 overs. Nayan and Ranjan hit 28 each for Bogra.
 Dinajpur posted 163 for six in 40.5 overs.
 Rousseau top scored with 48 for the winners.
 At Chandpur, Dhaka recorded a 70 run win over Pabna.
 Winning the toss, Dhaka decided to bat first and piled up 265 for five in the stipulated 45 overs.
 Sajjad Mansur Shipon, the young national discard top scored with 76, Towhid and Halim were the other notable scorers with 65 and 40 respectively. Extras contributed notable 45 runs to the total.
 Babu took three for 36 for Dhaka.
 Chasing 266 for a win, Pabna were all out for 195 in 43.1 overs.
 Babar and Babu contributed 47 and 44 respectively to the Pabna collection.
 Halim Shah, who earlier hit 40, also took three for 30 for the winners.

MSC, Abahani leave for Calcutta today
Sports Reporter
 Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krishna Chakra leave for Calcutta today to participate in a fund raising tournament organised by All India Sports Journalist Federation for distressed journalists.
 In the eight-team round robin league competition Abahani who are placed in one group along with IFA Eleven, Calcutta Mohammedan and Mahindra and Mahindra will play their first match against IFA XI tomorrow.
 Mohanbagan team is playing under the banner of IFA XI.
 Abahani will then take on Calcutta Mohammedan on March 6 and then play against Mahindra and Mahindra in their last round robin league encounter on March 8.
 Mohammedan Sporting Club who are in the other group along with Titaniam, East Bengal and Peerless will clash with Titaniam on March 6.
 Mohammedans meet East Bengal on March 8 while their last group engagement against Peerless will take place on the following day.

Dhanmondi School Dhaka zone champs
Sports Reporter
 Dhanmondi Government High School emerged Dhaka zone champions with a comfortable five-wicket victory against Scholastica in one of the zonal finals of the 12th Nirman Schools cricket championship played at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.
 Put into bat Scholastica managed 142 for seven wickets in 35-overs-a-side contest.
 In reply, Dhanmondi aided by an unbeaten 77 from their skipper Tanvir reached 146 for five in 31.3 overs.
 Tanvir, who came to bat after both Dhanmondi openers, were dismissed cheaply almost singlehandedly took his team to victory with more than three overs to spare.
 Tanvir's splendid 77 included seven sparkling boundaries and a huge six. He was later declared man-of-the-match.
 Earlier, in the Scholastica innings Ridwan was the top scorer with 38.
 Swapan and Dipu took two wickets apiece for the winners.
 Meanwhile, four semifinalists — Dhanmondi Govt High School, Scholastica, Udayan Biddalaya and Govt Laboratory School — have already qualified for the final round of the championship along with 23 other zonal champions.



Former Brazilian soccer star Zico (R), now playing for Kashima Antlers, is about to intercept compatriot Sergio Soares of Sao Paulo during an exhibition match in Tokyo on March 1. The match which saw Antlers go down 2-3 marked the Brazilian super star's farewell from J-League. — AFP photo

Pak-Kiwis one-day series on



DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Mar 2: Fearsome fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis should give Pakistan an advantage here Thursday in the first one-day series match against New Zealand, reports AFP.
 To make their odds look even better, some of Pakistan's batting talent showed one-day skills in the recent Test series which the tourists won 2-1.
 However, the weather may give the final say here, with gloomy autumn skies predicted and neither team able to practise outdoors.
 Pakistani captain Salim Malik claims that following similar experiences here the word "Dunedin" has entered the Urdu dictionary defined as wet and cloudy weather.
 If the weather holds long enough New Zealand believe they can frustrate Pakistan's stroke-makers.
 "They're extremely strong in batting. They're all dashers but they were put under pressure in the third Test at Christchurch and crumbled a bit," New Zealand coach Geoff Howarth said.
 "The idea will be to put them under as much pressure

as possible and we might see some false strokes."
 Under one-day rules, bowlers are restricted to 10 overs each, which should help negate the influence of Akram and Younis.
 In the three-Test series, the pair bowled 278 overs between them. The other seven bowlers used by Pakistan captain Salim Malik got through just 148 overs.
 Howarth believes Pakistan's back-up bowlers are "vulnerable" and is confident New Zealand have the batting capability to take advantage of their shortcomings.
 "If they get it all together they could score a pile of runs and they are current world champions, so they've got that to live up to," he added.
 "But if we perform as we can, with consistency in all departments, there's no reason why we shouldn't pull off the series."
 New Zealand will go into the series full of confidence if records are anything to go by.
 In 15 one-dayers between the countries in New Zealand, the home side have won 10 and lost just four, with one abandoned.
 Pakistan were New Zealand's opponents in their

first one-day international, a 22-run win for New Zealand in Christchurch in 1973.
 Since then Pakistan have been restricted to a seven wicket win in Auckland in 1989, back-to-back World Cup victories at Christchurch and crucially in the Auckland semifinal, and in Wellington last season.
 The two countries have only contested a single one-dayer here previously. That game in 1989 resulted in an eight-wicket win for New Zealand.
 Overall, out of 28 matches, Pakistan have won 14 and New Zealand 13, with the one abandonment.

TEAMS
NEW ZEALAND (from): Ken Rutherford (captain), Bryan Routledge, Mark Greatbatch, Andrew Jones, Shane Thomson, Chris Harris, Chris Cairns, Tony Blain, Matthew Hart, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Chris Pringle, Richard de Green.
PAKISTAN (from): Salim Malik (captain), Saad Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Asif Mujtaba, Atif Rauf, Basit Ali, Inzamam-ul Haq, Shoaib Mohammed, Rashid Latif, Shakeel Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Akram Raza, Waqar Younis, Ata-ur Rehman, Aamir Nazir.

Ground Barcelona's worry



LONDON, Mar 2: The winter break is over. Or is it? As play resumes Wednesday in the European Champions Cup after a three-month break, manger Johan Cruyff and his Barcelona team find themselves in 12-degree (minus 11 C) Moscow, playing Spartak on a field hardened by months of Russian cold, reports AP.
 "We've been trying to talk to (European governing body) UEFA for weeks so they'll do something about it," Cruyff said. "You can't have such an important competition, with millions at stake, played on a rocky field like Spartak's."
 Despite the cold, it is a red-hot Barcelona that has made the trip east. The team has no major injury worries and has scored 14 goals in its last three games in the Spanish league.
 "I'm sure that this team's quality is such that if we play the way we know how, there are few teams that can defeat us," Cruyff said.
 Barcelona will be trying to keep an unbeaten record in Group A of the eight-team league, following a draw with Galatasaray and a victory over Monaco. The Spanish club will also be looking to avenge a second-round defeat last season when, as defending

champions, they fell to Spartak.
 Spartak, missing captain Viktor Onopko due to suspension, are winless in two Champions Cup games have not had the benefit of league soccer to keep their players in shape. Russia plays its soccer in the summer time.
 In Group B, first place is at stake in the game between Werder Bremen and last years runners-up, AC Milan.
 Milan are sailing comfortably in the Italian league, although they have not fared as well recently in cup play, losing the Intercontinental Cup to Sao Paulo, the Super Cup to Parma and an Italian Cup game to Piacenza. "We are not growing any complex in the cups," was the reassuring message from Manager Fabio Capello.
 Milan possess one of the best defences in Europe, anchored by goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi, who had shut out all opponents for 929 minutes before allowing a goal against Foggia on Sunday. Bremen make the trip without the services of midfielder Marco Bode, who injured his rib cage in a game last Friday, and defender Uli Borowka, still recovering from a broken foot.
 The Anderlecht-Porto Group B, game in the Netherlands will mark former England manager Bobby Robson's Champions Cup debut with his new team.
 Robson, who took over from Tomislav Ivic after being fired by Sporting Lisbon, has imposed his aggressive, attacking style on a usually defensive-minded Porto team.
 "With Ivic, Porto played permanently with six defenders," Anderlecht coach Johan Boskamp said. "At the moment, they line up four defenders and three attackers."
 Porto have won 5-0 twice in two weeks in the Portuguese league with Bulgarian striker Emile Kostadinov leading the way with two hat-tricks.
 Anderlecht are missing Swedish midfielder and Belgian player of the year Par Zetterberg, whose knee injury

will keep him out of, both the champions league and this summer's World Cup.
 Monaco, struggling in the French league, host an injury-riddled Galatasaray team that has neither scored nor allowed a goal in its two group a champions league games.
 Monaco midfielder Youri Djorkaeff, tied for the scoring lead in France with 16 goals, has been one of the few bright spots lately for the team that replaced expelled Olympique Marseille in the competition.
 Galatasaray, already missing injured German defender Falko Goetz and midfielder Suat, suffered another blow recently when it learned that Swiss international forward Kubilay Turkylmaz will need surgery to repair an old hernia problem and will miss the remaining Champions league games.
 In the first leg of the quarterfinals of Cup Winners Cup defending champion Parma who travel to Ajax on Thursday, are scrambling to come up with a new defensive scheme after the suspensions of key defenders Lorenzo Minotti, Antonio Benarivo and Alberto Di Chiara.
 Ajax, leading the Dutch First Division by five points will be led by Finnish international Jari Mitmanen, the league's leading scorer, who was cleared to play after suffering a slight concussion in the teams last game.
 Arsenal travel to Turin on Wednesday to face a Torino team in turmoil over finances. Leading scorer Ian Wright, 24 goals this season, is a doubtful starter for the English Club.
 "Ian has not been 100 per cent with his hamstring and has missed our last three matches," manager George Graham said. "I have a little decision to make about him and you will have to wait and see."
 In the first leg of the UEFA Cup quarterfinals, Boavista Porto of Portugal are home to German club Karlsruhe on Wednesday, and Salzburg of Austria host troubled Eintracht Frankfurt on Thursday.

Odumbe Kenya's hero

NAIROBI, Mar 2: A majestic 158 not out by Maurice Odumbe earned Kenya a place at the next Cricket World Cup in 1996 as they beat Bermuda by 64 runs in the first semifinal of the ICC Trophy on Tuesday, reports Reuter.
 The Kenyans will face the winners of Thursday's second semifinal between Holland and the United Arab Emirates in Sunday's final, but Bermuda could still qualify for the main event.
 There are three places allocated to ICC Trophy teams at the 1996 tournament, to be filled by the two finalists and the winners of the third place play-off.
 Odumbe's century was the lynchpin of Kenya's 50-over total of 318 for five after they had won the toss on a pitch made for batting.
 Two early run outs set the home team back but a third wicket stand of 142 in 117 balls between Odumbe and Steve Tikolo, who made 67, settled Kenyan nerves.
 Odumbe surged to his second century in three matches, facing only 137 balls and hitting 11 fours and three sixes.
 He then took three wickets for 49 as Bermuda replied with 254 for nine in their 50 overs and had no rivals as man-of-the-match.
 Clay Smith hit 108 from 96 balls for Bermuda, but his innings ended in controversial fashion.
 Sweeping at left arm spinner Asif Karim, Smith was adjudged lbw by Namibian umpire Louis Van Reenen although the ball appeared to be missing leg stump by some way.
 Smith ran down the pitch to remonstrate with Van Reenen and only left the crease after much argument. He was duly reported for misconduct by the umpire to ICC match referee, Berney Miller.

Real Madrid's dual quest



MADRID, March 2: Real Madrid will have all eyes on French man David Ginola when they seek revenge against Paris St Germain in the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final here on Thursday, reports AFP.
 Paris St Germain's striker has already attracted Spanish interest and many reports have said he will be a real Madrid player next season. Beating his potential employers and putting Paris St Germain into the semifinals could ironically seal the move.
 The French club beat Real Jadukar Samad

in the quarter-finals of last year's UEFA Cup. Paris lead the French championship but Ginola has made little secret of his desire to get away from bitter criticism of his role in France's failure to reach the World Cup finals.
 The stakes are high for Real, with a Spanish title now unlikely, coach Benito Floro knows his future depends on success in Europe.
 Rafael Martin Vazquez and Emilio Butragueno are uncertain. But Floro said: "We are going all out in attack, we won't give them any time to think. The pressure and the atmosphere in the stadium will be crucial."
 Real were refused permission to open a new 7,000 seater stand that would have taken capacity in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to 108,000.
 Paris coach Artur Jorge is agonising over whether to field the Brazilian Raf. Yet to impress in the French league, or hard-running Liberian striker Georges Weah, Raf's form is so

bad that he could miss the World Cup finals.
 Dutch league leaders Ajax Amsterdam are favourites to end the campaign by Parma of Italy to retain the European Cup Winners' Cup. With Frank Rijkaard back in the team and Finnish striker Jari Litmanen scoring Charts Ajax are having one of their strongest sides since they won the competition in 1987.
 Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt must get over a humbling 3-1 defeat by Schalke 0-4 on Saturday as they taken on Casino Salzburg in the UEFA Cup quarterfinals.
Thursday's European fixtures
 European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final 1st leg
 Real Madrid, Spain V Paris St Germain, France
 Ajax Amsterdam, Holland V Parma, Italy
 UEFA Cup quarter-final 1st leg
 SV Casino Salzburg, Austria V Eintracht Frankfurt, Germany.

India closer to goal

LUCKNOW, Mar 2: Champions India's chances of another tournament victory brightened today after their 2-0 win against Kenya as Africa Cup holders South Africa suffered a shock 0-3 defeat at the hands of Egypt in the Indira Gandhi international hockey tournament here, reports PTI.
 The hosts, with two more matches against South Africa and South Korea, need only one win and one draw for the title.
 In another match on the fourth day of the round-robin tournament, Asia Cup champions South Korea suffered another jolt as they were held one-all by Japan.
 India, with three wins from as many matches, lead the points table while South Africa are positioned second with four points from three outings.
 At the third spot are Egypt with three points and Asia Cup winners and Intercontinental champions Korea, who began as the favourites, are at the fourth place with two draws.
 Though India kept their slate clean, today's victory was not so impressive. The hosts were tightly controlled by the Kenyans who allowed them to score only once in each half.
 The first goal came in the 29th minute when Arif Mohammad converted their fifth penalty corner.

Rokon's ton powers BKSP

Sports Reporter
 Al Shahriar Rokon hammered an unbeaten 123 in the process of BKSP's massive 146-run victory over Satkhira in the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship at the Dhaka National Stadium yesterday.
 Fresh from their 171-run win over Sylhet, BKSP compiled a huge score of 269 runs for five wickets in the allotted 45 overs after being sent in to bat by Satkhira skipper.
 Skipper Rokon, who provided the chunk of BKSP's collection played 120-balls and his essay featured six hits to the fence.
 Ujjal (30), Morshed (33), Moni (29) and Sohel not out 25 were the other notable BKSP scorers.
 Chasing a formidable BKSP total Satkhira were bundled out for 124 in 40.5 overs.
 Topu with 38 was the top scorer for the losers while Akhter who made 26 was the other twenty plus scorer of Satkhira.
 Naifs, the most successful BKSP bowler, finished with an excellent analysis of 4.5-2-7-3.
 He was well supported by Shabbir who took two for 18.
 In the other match of the day, Rajshahi registered their second successive win defeating Sylhet by six wickets.
 Sent into bat, Sylhet were skittled out for 104 in 37.1 overs.
 Liton had done most of the damage to the Sylhet innings capturing five wickets for 22 runs.
 Rajshahi, in their chase for as easy target posted 107 for five in 24.5 overs.
 Tito with 33 topscored for the winners while Shaheen remained unbeaten on 28 at the kill.
 Shanto took two wickets for 35 for the losers.

TODAY'S MATCHES
 Jessore vs Dhaka (Dhaka Stadium)
 Chittagong vs Dinajpur (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium east)



Brazilian William Andrade (dark shirt) of Benfica and Bayer Leverkusen's Paval Hapal fight for the ball in the first leg of quarterfinals of the Winners Cup in Lisbon, Portugal on March 1. The game ended 1-1. — AFP photo

Jadukar Samad soccer
Sports Reporter
 Shaju recorded the first hat-trick in the Jadukar Samad Smriti juvenile football tournament when his team Fakirepool Ekota Club earned an easy 5-0 victory over Little Friends Club at the Outer Stadium yesterday.
 Shaju scored four goals while Piku scored one to complete the tally.
 In the other match of the day, National Football Training Club drew one-all against Gulzarbag Sporting Club.
 Murad netted the goal for National while Pintu found the net for Gulzarbag.

Perth Kangaroos blaze the trail
PERTH, Australia, Mar 2: The West Australian government will be encouraging further sporting links with Asia following the launching of a local soccer team in the Singapore competition, an official said Wednesday, reports AFP.
 A week after the launch of the Perth Kangaroos, who will play in the Singapore Premier soccer league,



Players of Dhanmondi Govt High School who emerged Dhaka zonal champions in the 12th Nirman Schools cricket championship defeating Scholastica by five wickets at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo