



Did U Know?

Jean Genevieve Garnerin was the first female parachutist, jumping from a hot air balloon in 1799.



Wenderley Luxemburgo
(Real Madrid coach)
"It's a big club with a lot of pressure. But if you start worrying about the pressure, then you will not stop."



ESPN
Bangladesh v India
Third ODI
Repeated at 12.30 pm
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe
Fifth ODI
Highlights at 5.30 pm
South Africa v England
Seventh ODI
Highlights at 6.30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 8.30 pm

STAR Sports
English Premier League
Bolton v Middlesbrough
Taped version at 8.30 am
Sportsline
Live at 8 pm
Indian Premier Hockey
Bangalore Hi Flyers v Chennai Veerans
Repeated at 8.30 pm



Ispahani 6th Nat'l Cricket League
(Four-day)
Dhaka v Barisal
Venue: FCS
Khulna v Rajshahi
Venue: KDS
Chittagong v Sylhet
Venue: CDS

Munna's qul today

SPORTS REPORTER

The qulkhwani of Monem Munna, the former Bangladesh football captain who passed away on Saturday, will be held at his 64 HM Sen Road residence at Bandar, Narayanganj today.

It will be held after Asr prayers.

Munna died of kidney disease and multi-organ dysfunction at the age of 39 after suffering for 17 days at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the city.

A milad mahfil and special munajat will be offered at the Abahani club premises tomorrow also at 5 pm.

A condolence book has been opened at the club where he became a legend both as a player and manager.

Natwar to meet PCB chairman

PTI, Islamabad

Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh would meet Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Shaharyar Khan on Thursday in an effort to resolve the contentious issue of playing in Ahmedabad during Pakistan's forthcoming tour of India.

Natwar Singh, who will be arriving here later Tuesday on a three-

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DHAKA, KHULNA POST 2ND WINS

Azam ton not enough



SPORTS REPORTER

Azam Iqbal hit the first century in the one-day version of the Sixth National Cricket League but that was not enough for holders Chittagong to avoid a second successive defeat as the second round began at different venues across the country yesterday.

Azam struck an unbeaten 123 as Chittagong amassed a challenging 250-5 in the stipulated 50 overs at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium. But Sylhet toppled the target with two balls to spare thanks to half-centuries by Ejaz Ahmed (58) and Tapash Baisya (53).

While Chittagong tumbled at their own den, Dhaka led by their captain Khaled Mahmud pulled off an exciting eight-run victory over Barisal at the Bangabandhu

National Stadium.

It was Dhaka's second consecutive victory and they now share top spot with Khulna, who handed Rajshahi a three-wicket defeat at the Khulna Divisional Stadium.

SYLHET V CHITTAGONG
Azam celebrated his return to his favourite position when the Chittagong opener hit an unbeaten 149-ball 123. However, his brilliant hundred was undone by some spectacular catch up cricket by the Sylhet lower-order.

After a disappointing first round in Dhaka, where they lost by nine wickets, Sylhet appeared heading for another disaster when they lost half their wickets with only 89 runs on the board.

But national paceman Tapas Baisya swung the game Sylhet's way with some lusty hitting in his 36-ball 53. The right-hander smote three sixes and four boundaries in his blazing knock. Ejaz also joined the party with half a dozen bound-

aries as Sylhet reached 251-8 in 49.2 overs.

Earlier, Azam carried his bat and along they he struck six fours and two sixes. Chittagong captain Akram Khan was the second best scorer with 32 off 49 balls.

DHAKA V BARISAL

Mahmud, who struck his maiden first-class hundred against Sylhet in the previous round, carried his form to the abridged version with a combative 78 as Dhaka recovered from a nervy start to post 218-7.

But the total looked too small for comfort after Barisal started the chase brilliantly with discarded national opener Hannan Sarker (55 off 63 balls), Sakib Chowdhury (39 off 42 balls) and left-handed Nahidul Haq (40 off 73 balls) providing the platform.

Number six batsman Arafat Salahuddin then scored a fine 50 as Barisal went into the final over needing nine runs for victory with

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SCORES IN BRIEF

Venue: BNS DHAKA: 218 for 7 in 50 overs (Javed 17, Mehrab 58, Mahmud 78, Neeeyamur 33 not out; Ishraq 3-31, Mosharaf 2-36) BARISAL: 210 all out in 49.4 overs (Sakib 39, Hannan 55, Nahid 40, Salahuddin 50; Ashrafu 4-24, Sunny 3-32) Result: Dhaka won by eight runs.	Venue: KDS RAJSHAHI: 218 all out in 50 overs (Reza 28, Nuruzzaman 23, Shamimul 35 not out; Al-Amin 2-44, Ziaur 3-62) KHULNA: 221 for 7 in 49.4 overs (Sadat 50, Shafu 44, Salim 40 not out, Asadullah 44; Reza 3-36, Shuvo 2-36) Result: Khulna won by three wickets.	Venue: CDS CHITTAGONG: 250 for 5 in 50 overs (Azam 123 not out, Akram 32, Ilias 20 not out; Tapash 1-56, Hasibul 1-41, Imtiaz 1-28) SYLHET: 251 for 8 in 49.4 overs (Parvez 36, Imtiaz 25, Nahid 35, Ejaz 58, Tapash 53 not out; Rashed 2-50, Yasin 2-50) Result: Sylhet won by two wickets.
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BCB XI camp starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

The short training camp of the BCB XI, who will take part in the Duleep Trophy, begins today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The BCB XI, led by Mohammad Ashrafu, will play East Zone (March 22-25 at Nagpur) and Central Zone (April 1-4 at Jaipur) in the group matches of the first-class tournament in India.

As expected, the selectors have included spinner Sabbir Khan and seamer Mohammad Shahzada to the squad to replace Naimur Rahman and Tareq Aziz. Both cricketers withdrew their names from the trip on personal grounds.

The BCB XI will leave Dhaka for Mumbai on February 19.

Meanwhile, the Duleep Trophy began yesterday with Central and Zone facing each other at Gwalior and North and West Zones playing in Lucknow.

In the absence of Sourav Ganguly and Rohan Gavaskar, Laxmi Ratan Shulka led East Zone which included two more Indian internationals,

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PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong's veteran opener Azam Iqbal who scored the first hundred in the National Cricket League's one-day competition yesterday during the match against Khulna at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium.

Galle gone with tsunami



AFP, Galle

The Galle Cricket Stadium was one of the most breathtaking Test venues, but the tsunami has exposed its vulnerability and brought down the curtain on Sri Lanka's "lucky" ground.

Cricket officials are looking for another location near here, 115 kilometres (72 miles) south of Colombo, for an alternate venue to Galle, a stadium which the national team had considered lucky.

They had won seven out of 11 matches played here while drawing two and losing two since the first Test match here in June 1998.

Curator Jayananda Warnaweera said he does not have state clearance to start reconstruction after the grounds were devastated by the

December 26 tsunamis that lashed much of Sri Lanka's coastline and killed nearly 31,000 people.

"We can't redo some of the nets because they come within a 100-metre buffer zone from the sea," Warnaweera said referring to regulations preventing any rebuilding within a strip of sea-front land reserved as a "green belt."

"We want to put up a five-storied air conditioned grand stand, but have not got permission for that either."

The stadium is at the foot of the historic Galle Fort, built by the Portuguese who turned the island into a colony in 1505. Much of the structures in the fort were added by the subsequent Dutch and British invaders.

Development of the stadium is restricted because the authorities are keen that no neighbouring structures end up dwarfing the historic site.

Cricket officials said they were not allowed to put up covered stands at the grounds and establish the internationally accepted safety standards because it would mean blocking the view of the ramparts.

The fort itself is a world heritage site and Sri Lanka maintains strict laws to protect its beauty. Ticket sales at the cricket venue had usually been less than they could have been because the ramparts offer a better view at no cost.

When a foreign television crew was once denied access to the stadium because another network had been given broadcasting rights, they clambered on the ramparts to have an even better camera view.

Sri Lankan Cricket officials said Galle would still be retained as a venue for premier league matches, but would no longer be classed as a Test venue.

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Shoaib faces hearing



REUTERS/BBC, Karachi

Strike bowler Shoaib Akhtar is to appear before a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) disciplinary committee on Thursday, two days before the squad to tour India is selected.

Shoaib has been charged with breaching his contract by visiting nightclubs while on tour in Australia at the start of the year, giving press statements without permission and delaying his return to Pakistan despite suffering a hamstring injury.

He has denied the charges and claims photos of him apparently taken at a party in Sydney were faked.

Justice Amir Alam Khan, heading the disciplinary committee that will sit in Lahore, said on Tuesday that a report would be produced within 24 hours. Two other members on the panel are Maqbool Elahi Malik and Abdul Salam Khawar, both members of the Pakistan Cricket Board.

The Pakistan selectors meet on Saturday to announce the 16-man squad for India. The tour consists of three Tests and five one-day internationals, with the first Test starting early next month.

Shoaib's hamstring is still a concern and could yet rule him out of the trip. The selectors, involved in a string of rows with the player over his fitness during the past year, had wanted him to play in a domestic match before the tour party was chosen but he opted for more rest.

"All the bowlers who have fitness problems will go through a fitness test on Friday to be supervised by the team's trainer and physiotherapist. Anyone not clearing the tests will not be considered," PCB director Abbas Zaidi told Reuters.

Shoaib has taken 144 Test and 186 one-day international wickets and has been Pakistan's leading bowler since the retirements of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis in 2003.

"I am looking forward to touring India," he said. "I'm resting the hamstring strain."

He, however, is said to be struggling to shake off the injury which has put his place for the tour across the border in doubt.

"Shoaib has told me he's still

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PHOTO: STAR

ON SONG: Inform Dhaka captain Khaled Mahmud whacks one towards mid-wicket during his 78 against Barisal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sonargaon suffer big setback

SPORTS REPORTER

Sonargaon Cricketers' chances to seal a premiership berth were dented when the First Division Cricket League title aspirants lost their penultimate match to Dhaka Wanderers yesterday.

The match ended in a tie when Sonargaon, chasing Wanderers' 232-7, finished their share of 50 overs on 232-9 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Wanderers were handed full points because they lost fewer wickets according to the bylaws.

Sonargaon and Gazi Tank are now level on 24 points, both having a match in hand. However, Sonargaon will be promoted to Premier League if both teams finish equal after their respective last league matches as they are ahead in the head-to-head record against their rivals.

Kalabagan have already booked the remaining spot as they emerged as champions after Tuesday's results.

Mid-table Wanderers' eighth win in 16 rounds was shaped by a 103-run partnership between Hafiz and Tapan for the sixth wicket. Tapan smashed 83 off 105 balls while Hafiz scored a responsible 47 after they were reduced to 55-5 by the 15th over.

For Sonargaon, Neaz held the fort with a fine 62 off 91 balls but they paid for a middle-order collapse, which saw fall of three wickets in the space of two runs. They needed 17 runs in the final two overs but last pair Sayem (29) and Obaidul (12) fell just one run short of victory.

TOUR OF INDIA

Waqar may be bowling coach

REUTERS, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis is in line to be appointed as bowling coach for this month's tour of India.

"Waqar is certainly under consideration for this post and if everything goes well he will accompany the team to India," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director Abbas Zaidi told this news agency on Tuesday.

"Waqar is definitely one of the best bowlers produced by Pakistan and we are holding talks with him to come in as bowling coach."

Pakistan are due to tour India from February 25 to play three Tests and five one-day internationals.

The 33-year-old Waqar was dropped by Pakistan after their first-round exit from the 2003 World Cup. Renowned for his reverse-swinging yorkers, he took 373 wickets in 87 Tests and 416 wickets in 262 one-day internationals.

Former Test captains Mushtaq Mohammad and Saeed Anwar were due to coach the team's batsmen in a five-day training camp from February 19 to 23, Zaidi added. The Pakistan squad is due to be announced on Saturday.

Zim A fight back



SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe A fought back in the first Test against Bangladesh A as they reached 123 for two in their second innings at tea on the third day in pursuit of 299 for victory at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

The tourists had looked in command at close on Day Two on 209 for five in their second innings, a lead of 275 runs. But they suffered a dramatic collapse yesterday morning losing the last five wickets for 23.

On Monday, left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr finished with seven wickets for 47 as Zimbabwe A were skittled out for 188.

Zimbabwe had closed on 57-3 on the first day in reply to Bangladesh

A's 254, but could not deal with the 18-year-old sensation's exploits.

Nightwatchman Graeme Cremer fell first, given out leg before wicket.

The middle order crumbled under pressure as Gregory Strydom was caught by Mushfiquir Rahim and Sheikh Russel claimed the wicket of Craig Ervine for two.

At one stage, Zimbabwe were 81-4 and crumbled to 117-7.

Terrence Duffin, who was 22 overnight, held on for his maiden first-class half century, which came off 130 balls. He was finally dismissed, trapped lbw, by A team

CORES IN BRIE

BANGLADESH A: 254 (Raqib 100, Mahmudullah 55) and 232 (Tushar 52, Wasel 46).
ZIMBABWE A: 188 (Duffin 65, Enamul 7-47) and 123-2 at Tea.

skipper Enamul on 65.

Enamul who destroyed Zimbabwe's seniors in the Test series last month -- completed the rout although he met with resistance from Blessing Mahwire who went on to reach 35 before he was bowled.

The second string Bangladesh side started with an advantage of 66 runs, but were pegged back by paceman Campbell McMillan. Opener Shahriar Nafees Ahmed (5) was out leg before while first innings centurion Raqib al-Hasan (25) edged to wicketkeeper Mufambisi. Bangladesh, who stumbled to 48-3 after losing Shamsur Rahman, were rescued by an 88-run stand between Tushar Imran (52) and Waseluddin (46).

Fresh from his 55 in the first innings, Mahmudullah Riyadh was unbeaten on 37 and Dhiman Ghosh (19) at close of second day's play.

Star-struck Chantilly



AFP, Chantilly

Brazilian football superstar Ronaldo on Monday took over a magnificent chateau outside Paris for a lavish, star-studded Valentine's Day declaration of love for his fiancée, model Daniela Cicarelli.

On a bitterly cold night a fleet of silver Audi limousines brought Ronaldo and around 250 close friends to the castle, shimmering in purple and white light for the occasion as a gaggle of young and old fans gathered to get a glimpse of their heroes.

About 200 people gathered outside the imposing gates of Chantilly Castle, one of the most romantic buildings in France which comes complete with towers, a moat and sweeping grounds replete

with fountains and woods.

There were screams from the small crowd as the Real Madrid star himself arrived in the early evening.

"I saw him!" shouted 13 year-old Jean-Francois, who had been waiting patiently in the freezing night for a glimpse of one of the most celebrated footballers of the present age.

"But I only saw his teeth," he added slightly disappointed, in a reference to the star's characteristic toothy grin, amid screams of delight from his boisterous but good-humoured companions who had cycled from their homes in Chantilly to watch the guests arrive.

The party had been organised to celebrate Ronaldo's engagement to Cicarelli, for according to Spanish law 28-year-old Ronaldo cannot remarry for at least one year after divorcing his first wife Milene

Domingues.

The World Cup 2002 star and Domingues, who have one child, separated at the end of 2003 after four years of marriage.

As the silver Audis backed up to the entrance to the Chantilly chateau's magnificent grounds in a minor security-induced traffic jam, young and old got a glimpse of Ronaldo's team mate in the Real Madrid side, Luis Figo.

Other stars were harder to spot through the tinted windows, and others -- perhaps famous, perhaps not -- got hearty boos from the crowd when they tried to hide their faces completely.

No doubt the horses and carriages moved more quickly to their destination when Chantilly was owned by the Conde family in the 17th century.

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PHOTO: INTERNET SOURCE

A fan captures Real Madrid superstar Luis Figo and his wife Helena on his cell phone as they walk to their limousine in front of the Plaza hotel in Paris on way to the engagement ceremony of Ronaldo at the Chantilly castle.