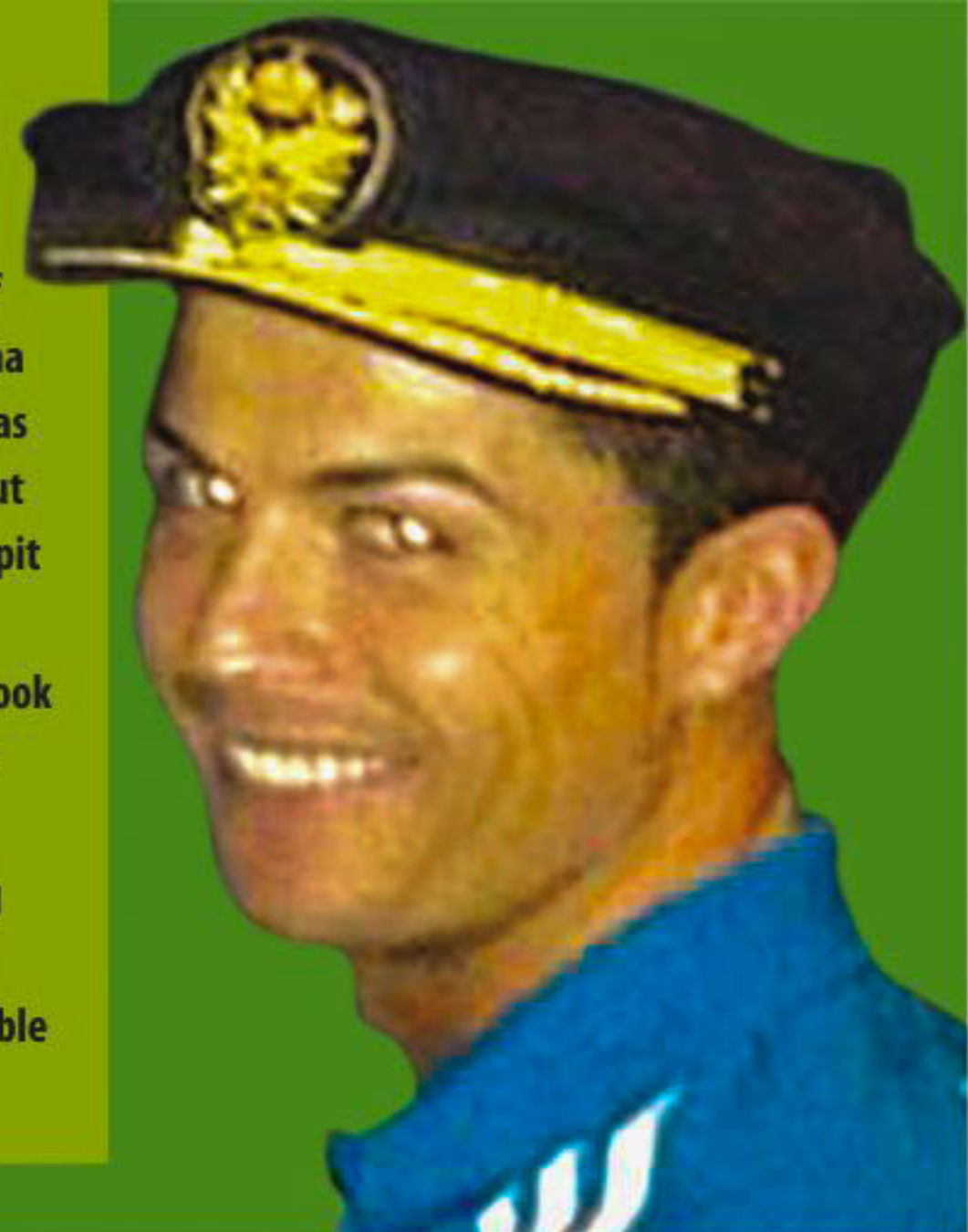


Ronaldo the pilot

As Real Madrid travelled ahead of their match at Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday, Cristiano Ronaldo was apparently given the chance to put on a pilot's cap and sit in the cockpit of the plane.

He posted the photo on his Facebook page with the caption "pilot for a few hours."

Chalk this up as yet another thing Ronaldo can do and Lionel Messi couldn't. There's no way he'd be able to see over that control panel.



Jahurul's double act

SPORTS REPORTER

Young students at the Clemon Indoor University Cricket Tournament were shocked to see a national cricketer, Jahurul Islam, play among them at the Shaheed Sohrwardi Indoor Stadium yesterday. The shock must have been greater among those who knew that he was captaining BCB North Zone against Walton Central Zone in the Bangladesh Cricket League final, with the third day due to start just hours later, from 1 pm onwards.

The batsman, who was included in the 15-man squad that will be touring Sri Lanka next month, scored 49 runs off 16 balls and guided Dhaka University to a 93-run victory over Daffodil International University yesterday.

BCB North Zone's team manager Debabrata Paul told reporters that the batsman had not taken permission to play in the indoor tournament. However, the player reported in time for the ongoing BCL final.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) cricket operations committee, Enayet Hossain Siraj, told The Daily Star that if Jahurul indeed played in

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PHOTO: STAR

BCB North Zone's left-arm spinner Sanjamul Islam shows the pink ball with which he dismissed eight batsmen of Walton Central Zone during their Bangladesh Cricket League final at the SBNSC yesterday.

Sanjamul stars on 3rd day

SPORTS REPORTER

An eight-wicket haul by Sanjamul Islam helped BCB North Zone bundle out Walton Central Zone for 247 runs in their second innings on the third day of the five-day final of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. With a 251-run winning target, a tense finish awaits on the fourth day today as North reached 129 for five at stumps yesterday, requiring 122 more to win the inaugural edition of Bangladesh's second first-class competition.

North Zone's chase began badly as they slumped to 71 for 5 in the first 19 overs. Skipper Mosharraf Hossain took two wickets, whereas Elias Sunny, Shahadat Hossain and Taskin Ahmed took one each. With the top half gone North were in desperate need of a revival and that came in the form of Jahurul Islam (39) and Sanjamul (34). They shared an unbeaten 58-run stand for the sixth wicket and cautiously guided North to stumps.

Earlier, Central Zone, resuming the day on 59 for two rode on a half-century from Rokibul Hasan, who scored a century in the first innings. He along with Mosharraf took the

side past the 100-run mark. However, Mosharraf soon became Sanjamul's first victim of the day as the batsman was caught and bowled in the 33rd over. Marshall Ayub was next, caught

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SCORES IN BRIEF

CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 277 and second innings 247 all out in 68 overs (Rokibul 68, Nurul 55; Sanjamul 8-73)
NORTH ZONE: First innings 274 all out in 79.1 overs and second innings 129 for 5 in 32 overs (Jahurul 39 not out, Sanjamul 34)

Mominul new pick for SL Tests

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors announced a 15-man Test squad for next month's Sri Lanka tour, excluding ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan. In place of Shakib, who will undergo an operation on his right leg this week and will subsequently be out of

SQUAD

Mushfiqur Rahim (captain), Mahmudullah Riyad (vice-captain), Tamim Iqbal, Shahriar Nafees, Anamul Haque, Naeem Islam, Nasir Hossain, Shohag Gazi, Abul Hasan, Rubel Hossain, Enamul Haque, Jahurul Islam, Mominul Haque, Shahadat Hossain, Robiul Islam.

Mominul Haque and Enamul Haque Jr take Shakib Al Hasan's place

Anamul Haque retained, and likely to be first-choice opener

Four pacers included

action for six weeks, the selectors have included middle order batsman Mominul Haque and slow-left arm bowler Enamul Haque Jr.

While this is the first time that Mominul has been included in a Test squad, Enamul has been recalled to the international arena after a gap of three years.

Other notable changes include recalls for batsman Jahurul Islam and pacer Robiul Islam, who last played Test cricket

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Tale of two selections

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Talismanic Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan's absence from the Sri Lanka touring party is undoubtedly a blow, especially when playing a team that has a near-flawless record at home.

However, one man's loss is another man's gain and in this case, Shakib's status as a genuine all-rounder has brought about chances for two players -- left-handed batsman Mominul Haque and left-arm spinner Enamul Haque Jr.

Mominul is one of the bright prospects of the young brigade



Mominul Haque

First-class career

Batting:

Matches	Innings	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
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that came to the fore in the series against West Indies late last year. Having only featured in the ODI series, Sri Lanka will be Mominul's first Test tour.

Although delighted to have gotten the opportunity, Mominul acknowledged that Shakib's absence, through which he got his opportunity, was a definite blow. "Shakib's absence will always be a negative. He is a good player and has consistently performed, but we have to try our best to perform," said Mominul. "Every player looks forward to the day when they can play Test cricket. I obviously was hoping to get a call and it feels really good. I am ready to bat in any position as long as I am in the team and I hope I can be amongst the runs."

Enamul's story is a different one. The slow-left arm

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Siddikur finishes 39th

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman ended the Zaykabar Myanmar Open on joint 39th position after aggregating seven-under-par (281).

The 28-year old golfer had a quiet last day at the Royal Mingalardon Golf and Country Club in Yangon yesterday as he managed an even-par score. However, he did score birdies -- four of them which offset the two bogeys and a double-bogey he scored.

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Muktijoddha to play in IFA Shield

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha Sangsad will take part in the 117th IFA Shield to be held in Kolkata from March 2 to 17.

"We will take part in the IFA Shield from the round-robin phase and are possibly placed in a group which also includes East Bengal," informed Shafiqul Islam Manik.

"This will be the third time that Muktijoddha Sangsad are going to take

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MS takes India in front

Cricket

PTI, Chennai

Mahendra Singh Dhoni gave an exhibition of blistering strokeplay to hit a career-best undefeated 206 while Virat Kohli cracked 107 as India rode on their captain's batting brilliance to gain control of the first Test against Australia by taking a substantial 135-run first innings lead here yesterday.

Dhoni produced a stunning counter-attacking knock to notch up his maiden double hundred, his sixth Test century overall, while Kohli recorded his fourth in longer format as the hosts reached a commanding 515 for eight at close, on an eventful third day's play.

The Indian captain set the MA Chidambaram Stadium

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Bangladesh bow out

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's fairytale campaign in the World Hockey League Round 2 came to an end with a 5-1 defeat against hosts India at New Delhi's Dhyanchand Stadium yesterday. The defeat meant Bangladesh finished on third position with India and Ireland grabbing the two qualification spots for the next round.

Bangladesh took the lead, like all the other matches, in the fifth minute through an immaculate drag and flick from Mamunur Rahman Chayan. But it proved an uphill task for Bangladesh since then, as India launched an onslaught of attacks, forcing

Bangladesh to defend in numbers. India scored the equaliser in the 15th minute and took the lead in the 32nd minute. Some brilliant stops from goalkeeper Zahid Hossain and two goaline saves from Chayan made sure the margin remained the slimmest one in the first half. There was not much reprieve for Bangladesh in the second half either as India prized out three more goals to make it a 5-1 victory.

Despite the defeat, it was a highly successful campaign for Bangladesh who came to this competition as the second-lowest ranked side in the 5-team pool.

Bangladesh started the campaign with a 5-2 defeat against Ireland, but bounced

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PHOTO: INTERNET

India skipper MS Dhoni scored the first double-hundred of his career to guide his side to a strong position on the third day of the Chennai Test.

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* Based on third party household panel data from July 2011 - June 2012