

## Rahmatganj blank Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Rahmatganj MFS made a winning start in the Premier Bank Bangladesh Championship League when they handed a 3-0 defeat to Victoria SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Nurul, Dalim and Sajid scored one goal apiece to help Rahmatganj notch an emphatic win while Wari Club and Agrani Bank SC played out a 1-1 draw at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

## Army rule on second day

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army dominated the second day of the Inter-Services Weightlifting Championships as SA Games gold medalist Hamidul Islam led from the front to bag all three gold medals at the National Sports Council gymnasium yesterday.

Hamidul bagged gold in 69kg category, lifting a total of 257 kilograms. Hamidul's teammates Monoranjan Roy and Mainul Islam bagged gold in 77kg and 85kg respectively.

# REAL destroy Schalke

AFP, Gelsenkirchen



Real Madrid cruised to a rare victory on German soil as they romped to a 6-1 win at Schalke 04 in Wednesday's Champions League's last 16, first-leg clash.

Real are now all but guaranteed a quarter-final place regardless of the return leg in Madrid on March 18 after Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale both netted twice in the rout.

Real's Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo also scored twice to see him take over from Zlatan Ibrahimovic as the competition's top-scorer with 11 European goals this season.

Netherlands striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar scored a 91st-minute consolation goal for Schalke, but the Royal Blues still suffered their heaviest defeat in European competition.

Carlo Ancelotti's Real are now unbeaten in their last 27 games dating back to October.

The huge victory went some way to correcting Real's terrible away record in Germany as they made the Royal Blues of Schalke look anything but regal.

This was only Real's second win in 26 visits to Germany after 18 defeats, including their 4-1 drubbing at Borussia Dortmund in last season's Champions League's semi-final.

Real needed just 13 minutes to take the lead at the Veltins Arena as their star-studded attack

clicked into gear.

Wales winger Bale cut in from the right, Ronaldo flicked his pass into space and Benzema beat the Welshman to the loose ball and fired past Schalke goalkeeper Ralf Faehrmann.

Schalke almost immediately equalised as teenage midfielder Max Meyer fired over the bar with the goal at his mercy after Ilker Casillas had blocked Julian Draxler's shot.

Schalke were punished for wasting their rare opportunity and with 21 minutes gone, Bale held off two Schalke defenders to make it 2-0 with La Liga leaders in full control.

Schalke's situation was not helped by Ronaldo effortlessly switching with Bale from the left to the right wing midway through the first half, only to revert back after the break.

Schalke came out all guns blazing for the second-half as Kevin-Prince Boateng forced Casillas into a rare save.

But Ronaldo finally got on the scoresheet at the fourth attempt to claim his 10th European goal of the season in his sixth Champions League match.

He effortlessly turned Cameroon centre-back Joel Matip inside, then out before tucking the ball just inside the far post with 52 minutes gone.

Just five minutes later, his deft backheel fell into Benzema's path for the Frenchman to drill home his second of the night and Real's fourth past the despairing Faehrmann.



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## THE STAR CAST

### MOHAMMAD SHAMI

Bowling figures in last game: 4 for 50  
Economy rate in last game: 5.00

**Recent performance**  
Wickets in last ten innings: 25  
Bowling average: 28.17  
Economy rate: 5.73  
BBF: 4 for 50

### LASITH MALINGA

Bowling figures in last game: 5 for 52  
Economy rate in last game: 5.28

**Recent performance**  
Wickets in last ten innings: 14  
Bowling average: 26.96  
Economy rate: 5.15  
BBF: 6 for 38

## Mohammedan players join nat'l camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Having replied to show-cause notices, six Mohammedan players yesterday joined the national football camp. But speedy winger Zahid Hossain has been ruled out of the squad for the March 5 FIFA friendly against India due to a muscle injury.

Not only Mohammedan's, all other players from Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel also turned up for training following the suspension of Friday's Bangladesh Premier League encounter between these two clubs as the government took over the Bangabandhu National Stadium to prepare it for Sunday's finals of Bangladesh and Bangamata Gold Cup Primary School Tournaments where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to distribute trophies

## Advantage Chelsea

AFP, Istanbul



Chelsea have the upper hand in their Champions League last-16 tie with Galatasaray after coming away from a testing environment in Istanbul with a 1-1 first-leg draw on Wednesday.

The visitors led at half-time thanks to an early goal from Fernando Torres, but Galatasaray improved in the second half and restored parity after the hour mark when Cameroon defender Aurelien Chedjou found the net.

A draw was a fair reflection of the way the game went, but Chelsea will now hope to finish the job in the return at Stamford Bridge on March 18.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho opted to select Torres in attack ahead of Samuel Eto'o in one of three changes to the team that beat Everton at the weekend, with Ramires and Andre Schuerrle also coming in.

It proved to be an excellent decision as it was Torres who finished off a clinical breakaway to put the Blues in front with just nine minutes played, giving Chelsea the lead they deserved as their hosts paid for a poor start.

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## MR. EFFICIENT

When captain Misbahul Haq came to the rescue at the end of 22 nd over during Pakistan's innings, it seemed hope was still alive until a hilarious mix-up between Shohaib Maqsood saw both batsmen end up at the same end causing Misbah to be run-out. It seemed all was about to go pear-shaped when Umar Akmal took over and batted till the end to take Pakistan to a position of strength. His partnership with Anwar Ali saw him reach a half-century; he bombarded his way to a 89-ball 102 with 7 fours and 3 sixes giving Pakistan a

## Majid hits ton

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdul Majid continued his good form by hitting a hundred on the first day of the fifth round of the National Cricket League matches as leaders Dhaka Division gained the upper hand against Dhaka Metro at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra yesterday.

During his 142-run knock which is his second hundred in the competition, Majid smashed 24 boundaries in the nearly six-hour stay and his effort helped Dhaka to finish the day on 375 for nine. Majid is the second highest run-getter of the competition after Asif Ahmed.

Meanwhile, the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar made its first-class debut with Rangpur taking on Chittagong. Rangpur made 172 for six on the opening day.

Khulna recovered from 71 for five to make 274 runs in their first innings against Rajshahi, thanks to an 89-run sixth wicket stand between Mithun Ali (61) and Nizamuddin Ripon (83). Number eight Nahidul Islam also contributed with a half-century against the hosts at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi.

Two wickets gave Barisal some relief by stumps after hosts Sylhet dismissed them for 224 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
<b>KHULNA:</b> 274 all out in 91.4 overs (Mithun 61, Ripon 83, Nahidul 58; Forhad 4-40, Sanjamul 3-79) v <b>RAJSHAH.</b>	
<b>DHAKA:</b> 375-9 in 90 overs (Majid 142, Sharif 79; Azim 3-61, Saikat 2-52, Sunny 2-65) v <b>DHAKA METRO.</b>	
<b>BARISAL:</b> 224 all out in 75.5 overs (Salman 52; Nabil 3-59, Kapali 2-15, Jayed 2-25, Saker 2-37) v <b>SYLHET:</b> 34-2 in 11.2 overs (Sayem 18, Avishek 0 not out)	
<b>RANGPUR:</b> 172-6 in 90 overs (Kabir 33, Tarik 36, Shuvo	

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