Time: 5:30pm Venue: BNS

Punjab's 3rd in a row

INTERNET, Sharjah

A disciplined all-round performance by Kings XI Punjab helped them register their third victory on the trot in the IPL, beating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 72 runs in Sharjah on Tuesday.

Punjab rode on Glenn Maxwell's blistering 43-ball-95 to set a mammoth 194run target against Shikhar Dhawan-led Hyderabad.

In reply, Hyderabad were not able to put up a fight and Punjab bowlers came up with a superb show to bundle them out in 19.2

Maxwell proved that fortune favours the brave as he made good use of the two lives that he got during in his innings by cracking nine sixes and five fours in his 43-ball 95-run innings SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 193 for 6

in 20 overs (Pujara 35,

Shehwag 30, Maxwell 95; Kumar 3-19, Mishra 2-56) SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 121 all out in 19.2 overs (Finch 19, Rahul 27, Sammy 15, Steyn 12; Johnson 2-26, Balaji 2-13, Patel 2-20) Result: Kings XI Punjab won by 72 runs.

Player-of-the-match: PIONEER FOOTBALL

Super League from May 2

SPORTS REPORTER

The Super League of the Dhaka City Corporation Pioneer Football League will be held at three different venues from May 2 with the participation of 20 teams.

The participating teams, split into four groups, will play the round-robin matches and top four teams from four groups will advance to the semifinals. Champions, runnersup and third-placed finishers will be promoted to the third division league.

Champions and runners-up will be awarded Tk one lakh and Tk 50,000 respectively while each of participating teams will get Tk 15,000 as participation money.

Zia on top

SPORTS REPORTER

Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman returned to winning ways when he beat GM Nguyen Ngoc Truong of Vietnam in the fifth round of the Asian Continental Chess Championships in Sharjah, UAE on Monday.

The win put Zia on top along with six other players on four points each.

In the women's section, WFM Nazrana Khan Eva drew against Chinese WIM Gu Tian Lu to earn two points from five matches.

Clash of titans

AFP, Madrid



World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo looks set to make his comeback from injury for Real Madrid when Bayern Munich visit the Santiago Bernabeu for their Champions League semifinal, first leg on Wednesday.

Ronaldo has been sidelined for the past three weeks due to a hamstring injury and will be desperate to make up for lost time by building on his record-equalling 14 goals in the competition this season.

Real are set to be at full strength as left-back Marcelo has also overcome a hamstring problem. Gareth Bale missed training on Monday due to flu-like symptoms, but the Welshman is expected to take his place alongside Ronaldo and Karim Benzema in attack.

Los Blancos will need Ronaldo and Bale firing on all cylinders if they are to overcome their historic hoodoo against Bayern in the last four of Europe's premier club competition.

In five previous semifinals, the Germans have come out on top four times, with a 3-2 aggregate victory in 2000 on their way to winning the competition for an eighth time Real's only success.

However, Madrid's previously awful record against German opposition has been salvaged this season as they saw off Schalke 04 and Borussia Dortmund on their way into the last four.

And Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge believes an away goal is the key to his side reaching the final for a third consecutive season.

"We need to score at least one goal. That's what we learned from Dortmund's meetings with Real Madrid," he said.

"We're known as the 'la bestia negra' (bete noire) down there. We need to show them la bestia negra is back."

By their own lofty standards, Bayern have struggled to maintain their focus after sealing the Bundesliga title in record time a month ago.

Saturday's 2-0 win over bottom club Eintracht Braunschweig was their first in four league games, a run which included two consecutive defeats after a 53-match unbeaten streak.

Bayern boss Pep Guardiola enjoyed an impeccable record of five wins and a draw in six visits to the Santiago Bernabeu in four years in charge of Barcelona.

However, the Spaniard has accepted responsibility for his side slacking off in recent weeks and will be hoping meeting the nine-time European champions brings out the best in them, having previously described playing in Europe as "like a good meal in a nice restaurant" compared to the "everyday pizza or hamburgers" of the Bundesliga.



PHOTO: AFP

Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo (L) takes part in a training session at the Valdebebas training centre yesterday on the eve of their Champions League semifinal against Bayern Munich.

Moyes sacked, Giggs takes over

AFP, Manchester



named as interim manager.

Manchester United on Tuesday sacked manager David Moyes following a disastrous ten-month spell at the world-famous club, with veteran midfielder Ryan Giggs

Moyes, 50, succeeded Alex Ferguson at the helm of the Premier League side on July 1 but the move quickly became a fiasco with the team

slumping to a series of embarrassing defeats. After feverish speculation in the British media, United confirmed Moyes's departure in a brief

statement. "Manchester United announces that David Moyes has left the club," United said.

"The club would like to place on record its thanks for the hard work, honesty and integrity

he brought to the role." United later confirmed Giggs would fill in on a caretaker basis.

"Following the departure of David Moyes as



DAVID MOYES RYAN GIGGS

manager, Manchester United has announced that Ryan Giggs, the club's most decorated player, will assume responsibility for the first team until a permanent appointment can be made," said another statement.

"The club will make no further comment on this process until it is concluded."

Giggs, Britain's most decorated player and United's record appearance-maker, was informed of the news after arriving at United's Carrington training ground near Manchester on Tuesday morning.

His first game in charge will be a league fixture at home to Norwich City on Saturday.

Giggs, 40, made his United debut in March 1991 and has made 962 appearances for the club, winning 13 Premier League titles, two Champions Leagues, four FA Cups, three League Cups and one FIFA Club World Cup. He has no previous managerial experience,

but has combined his role as a player with a position on United's coaching staff since the start of the current campaign. Experienced Dutch coach Louis van Gaal has

emerged as the British bookmakers' favourite to succeed Moyes on a permanent basis. The 62-year-old, whose previous clubs include Ajax, Barcelona and Bayern Munich, recently

expressed a desire to work in England when his contract as manager of the Netherlands expires after this year's World Cup in Brazil.

However, Jurgen Klopp of Borussia Dortmund, another rumoured contender, has already ruled himself out of the running.

A season of disaster

AFP, Manchester



Timeline of how David Moyes' season at Manchester United went wrong following his sacking on Tuesday:

2013

July 1: Moyes starts work as Manchester United manager after the retirement of Alex Ferguson.

September 1: Liverpool beat United 1-0 at Anfield, inflicting the first Premier League defeat under Moyes' leadership in his third league game in charge.

September 22: Manchester City hammer city rivals United 4-1. One week later lowly West Brom beat United at Old Trafford where they have not won in 35 years of trying.

December 4: Moyes former side Everton win 1-0 at Manchester United -- a first victory at Old Trafford in 21 years.

December 6: Rio Ferdinand criticises Moyes' late team selection policy, saying on BT Sport: "It turns you into a madman."

2014

January 5 - Swansea win at Old Trafford for the first time, sending United out of the FA Cup at the third-round stage for only the second time in 30 years.

January 7 - Defeat in Capital One Cup semifinal first leg at Sunderland means a third

straight loss for the first time since May 2001.

February 1 - Stoke end their long wait for a win against United. Charlie Adam's double gives them their first since 1984.

February 7: Veteran Serbian defender Nemanja Vidic announces he will leave United at the end of the season.

February 9 - United come from behind to lead bottom side Fulham at Old Trafford, but Darren Bent's stoppage-time equaliser grabs a 2-2 draw. Moyes describes the result as being "as bad as it gets".

February 25: In the Champions League last 16, United lose 2-0 at Olympiakos in Greece.

March 16: Two Steven Gerrard penalties and a Luis Suarez strike earn Liverpool a crushing 3-0 win at Old Trafford.

March 25: United lose 3-0 at home to Manchester City. The result meant United were guaranteed to end the season with their lowest points total in Premier League history.

April 9: Despite an encouraging 1-1 draw in the first leg, United go down 3-1 to title holders Bayern Munich in the second leg of their Champions League quarterfinal in Munich.

April 20: Moyes' return to Everton becomes a nightmare. He is jeered by the crowd and United lose 2-0 -- a club record 11th defeat in the Premier League. United cannot now qualify for the 2014-15 Champions League.

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City close gap on Liverpool

AFP, Manchester



Manchester City narrowed the gap to Premier League leaders Liverpool to six points with a comfortable 3-1 victory over West

Monday. Pablo Zabaleta, Sergio Aguero and Martin Demichelis all scored for City as three different Argentinian players netted in a Premier League match for

the first time. West Brom showed brief moments of skills and had pulled the score back to 2-1 through Graham Dorrans, but ultimately City had too much quality.

City will close further on Liverpool should they win their game in hand, although they still need the Merseyside club to drop points in their remaining three games if they are to take the title themselves.

Manuel Pellegrini, the City manager, responded to his side's 2-2 draw with Sunderland with three changes as Gael Clichy, David Silva the corner of the net from just outside and Edin Dzeko came in for Aleksandar Kolarov, James Milner and Alvaro Negredo respectively.

The hosts were also still without

influential midfielder Yaya Toure, who is recovering from a groin injury, while West Brom recalled Craig Dawson and free-kick in West Brom's half. Billy Jones to their defence. But it did not take a much more

fluid City side long to assert their expertly lifted it over City left-back authority in the game and they took the lead in the third minute with a header from right-back Zabaleta.

A weak header from West Brom defender Liam Ridgewell fell to Aguero who struck a powerful first-time volley which was parried by Ben Foster, but Zabaleta anticipated the rebound to head into the vacant net.

Aguero lifted a shot over the crossbar moments later when he got on the end of a cross from Samir Nasri, but it was not long until the Argentina striker got his name on the scoresheet.

West Brom's defence backed off Aguero in the 10th minute and were punished as he arrowed a low shot into

the penalty area. The visitors pulled a goal back six minutes later through Dorrans with a brilliant goal on the counter-attack after a breakdown in communication between Fernandinho and Silva at a

Dorrans received the ball on the edge of the box from Matej Vydra and Clichy with his right foot before he spectacularly volleyed past goalkeeper Joe Hart with his left.

City always looked more likely to add a third goal before the interval and it duly arrived from a Nasri corner flicked on by Vincent Kompany into the path of Demichelis who escaped Jonas Olsson at the back post and guided the ball home.

The second half was decidedly more subdued, although City fans will nervously await updates on Spain playmaker Silva who was taken off on a stretcher with an ankle injury after an awkward tangle with Morgan Amalfitano in the 70th minute.

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