



**What to WATCH**

**GTV & STAR SPORTS1**  
Asia Cup  
India v UAE  
Live from 7:30pm  
**SONY ESPN**  
Primera Liga

**Rayo Vallecano v Barcelona**  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)  
**SONY SIX**  
Primera Liga  
Espanyol v Real Betis  
Live from 1:30am (Friday)

**SONY SIX HD**  
Primera Liga  
Granada v Sporting Gijon  
Live from 1:30am (Friday)

**DAY'S EVENT**

**Asia Cup**  
Venue: SBNS

**India v UAE**  
Time: 7:30pm

**BCL, Four-day Match, Day 3**  
Time: 9:30am

**South Zone v North Zone**  
Venue: Cox's Bazar

**East Zone v Central Zone**  
Venue: Cox's Bazar

**'WE STILL MISS MUSTAFIZUR'**

Despite bundling out Pakistan for a below-par total, Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza said that the team still missed their star pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who dropped out of the Asia Cup T20 due to injury. Speaking to reporters after yesterday's match Mashrafe said: "I still missed Mustafiz. If he was there, our target would have been 15 runs less. Our entire team misses him. We are hopeful that he will come back before the ICC World Twenty20. It was challenging for us to restrict them below 130."

—SPORTS REPORTER





# Tigers hunt in packs

SAKEB SUBHAN



Perhaps the most jarring aspect of seeing this Bangladesh bowling attack, be it in T20s or ODIs, is the sense of inevitability that they will give a good account of themselves. The lynchpin of the pace attack, Mustafizur Rahman, was out through injury but it did not seem to be a big problem as Taskin Ahmed ran in to deliver the first ball of the virtual Asia Cup T20 semifinal against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

more wickets than the one he added to his column when he had Umar Akmal caught at deep point by Shakib Al Hasan. All through this Asia Cup he has provided Bangladesh stirring starts with threatening pace and accuracy, but he had also had a catch each dropped off his bowling in the first three matches. It was no surprise then that he held his palms up in prayer as Shakib settled under the skier. Fewer wickets would have been more richly deserved.

The pitch was devoid of the grass seen in earlier games, grass which would have helped a pace-heavy attack. That slight disadvantage was rendered irrelevant when left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny, the man replacing Mustafizur, beat Sharjeel Khan in the flight and lit up the LED stumps.

Taskin's value may not be reflected in the wickets column, but a look at the economy rates are more revealing. In the tournament so far, only Shakib among the Tigers' regular bowlers has bowled more stingily than Taskin's six runs per over. His value to the bowler following him cannot be underestimated. Al-Amin Hossain's dismissal of Khurram Manzoor in the second over was preceded by a first over by Taskin that yielded just one. Sunny reaped the reward of a Taskin maiden when Sharjeel Khan, in order to relieve the pressure, missed a hoick.

Those slightly older spectators who have followed Bangladesh cricket since their ascension to Test status in 2000 would have become accustomed to seeing the team lose even when the conditions and situations were stacked in their favour, so to witness the reverse must be jarring. Old attitudes die hard -- performances like yesterday's have been happening for the past six years with increasing regularity, but it is refreshing nonetheless.

Taskin himself benefited from a tight over from Shakib to have Akmal flaying wildly, proving the oft-overlooked importance of bowling in partnerships that this team has become so proficient at. At one stage, Taskin had figures of 3-1-2-1, ruined somewhat by his last over going for 12 runs. That was the only four point yesterday, the last overs of the five bowlers went for a combined total of 60 runs as Pakistan scored 75 in the last seven overs. That should not be cause for alarm ahead of the final however; this Bangladesh bowling unit has a propensity for improvement that is matched by their bowling depth.

It is no coincidence that some of Bangladesh's best performances have revolved around stellar bowling and fielding performances; the spirit of a team is depicted truest when on the field. In this respect the team may well move to grant Taskin a few

The Bangladesh players got into a heap as soon as Mahmudullah Riyad hit the winning runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur last night. (Below) The Pakistan team management could hardly bear to watch as the hosts snatched a brilliant five-wicket victory and a place in the Asia Cup T20 final against India on March 6.

PHOTOS: STAR



# BANNED

Mamunul, Zahid, Sohel, Yeasin suspended from national team for various terms

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) brushed aside whispers of leniency by handing out different terms of suspension to four national footballers, including Mamunul Islam, on disciplinary grounds yesterday.



**Mamunul Islam (Midfielder/Captain)**  
**Banned for one year**  
**Offence: Breach of code of conduct (2,6,7)**



**Zahid Hossain (Midfielder)**  
**Banned for one year**  
**Offence: Breach of code of conduct (2,12)**



**Sohel Rana (Midfielder)**  
**Banned for six months**  
**Offence: Breach of code of conduct (2)**



**Yeasin Khan (Defender)**  
**Banned for six months**  
**Offence: Breach of code of conduct (2)**

"The seven footballers were given an opportunity to defend themselves before a three-member subcommittee after the fact-finding committee had brought some allegations against the players. On the basis of the report of the subcommittee as well as other reports, we have taken these decisions," Nabil said.

"What we have maintained is the proportion of punishment because we didn't want someone to get heavy punishment for lesser offences or someone to receive small punishment for heavier offences," Nabil said.

professional conduct of the players, sense of the players' commitment and overall discipline. Due to a lack of all these issues, you don't get the best performance from the players," Nabil said, referring to the upcoming matches of the national team, which is scheduled to play a final World Cup qualifying match against Jordan later this month and play the third round of the Asian Cup Qualifiers from June onwards.

Most of the players, however, refuted the suspensions meted out against them.

been dishonoured. They have damaged everything I achieved in the last 10 years," said a seemingly frustrated Mamunul over phone.

Zahid accepted the suspension and vowed to return to the national team by proving himself on the pitch.

"Even though I have been suspended, I still don't know what mistake I made. They could not tell us about my transgression. I have nothing to say about the decision," said Sohel Rana.

"There would have been no regrets if they could provide evidence for the allegations brought against me," Yeasin Khan said, adding that no one raised any questions about his performance.

The game's governing body had earlier banned three players -- Zahid Hossain Emily, Mithun Chowdhury and Zahid Hossain -- from domestic competitions on disciplinary grounds in December, 2011, but it lifted the bans on Emily and Mithun following the exemption appeal the following month. Zahid served a three-match domestic suspension.

# Rakibul goes big

SPORTS REPORTER



Rakibul Hasan converted his first-day ton into a double and Tanveer Haider hit a hundred on the second day of the fourth round of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) as Central Zone declared their first innings on a huge first innings total of 588 for eight at the Sheikh Kamal International Stadium in Cox's Bazar yesterday. East Zone also made a good reply as they finished the day on 142 for two thanks to Mominul Haque's 92-ball 89 that featured 10 boundaries.



**RAKIBUL HASAN ... 228**

in the tourist town to watch the BCL matches.

"The wickets are good for batting but they also have some bounce. Unfortunately our pace bowlers lacked variety. On this kind of wicket one cannot be successful bowling wicket to wicket; rather one should earn the scalp," he added.

At the other ground, a 118-run opening partnership between Anamul Haque and Shahriar Nafees helped South Zone end the day on a happy note after North Zone were all out for 296. Anamul scored 70 off 116 balls, smashing four fours and two sixes, while Nafees contributed 52 off 90 balls with seven boundaries.

Veteran Tushar Imran remained not out on 60.

SCORES IN BRIEF	
<b>NORTH ZONE:</b> 296 all out in 105.1 overs (Naeem 48, Ariful 43, Muktar 64; Shohag 3-60, Razzak 2-93, Taibur 2-32) v <b>SOUTH ZONE:</b> 247-4 in 79 overs (Anamul 70, Nafees 52, Tushar 60 not out; Sajib 2-66, Sanjamul 2-64)	<b>CENTRAL ZONE:</b> 588-8dec in 142 overs (Rakibul 228, Marshall 81, Tanveer 110; Rahatul 3-224, Saifuddin 2-100, Tasamul 2-19) v <b>EAST ZONE:</b> 142-2 in 36 overs (Imtiaz 37 not out, Mominul 89; Sharif 1-28, Shuvagata 1-47)

# Galatasaray banned from Europe

AFP, Nyon

UEFA on Wednesday banned Turkish champions Galatasaray from European competition for one year for breaching spending rules.

A UEFA tribunal ordered the ban after Galatasaray "failed to comply with the terms of the settlement agreement" made with the European confederation in May 2014, said a statement.

Galatasaray have spent heavily in recent years to buy the likes of Lukas Podolski and Wesley Sneijder. They have also been ordered to cut back on wages but the club was relieved only to get a one-year ban.

BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE INAUGURAL INTER GARMENTS 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL SHOWDOWN

# BGMEA CUP 2016

17TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL

**Last Date of Registration: March 7**

Venue: International Turkish Hope School Astro-Turf

Matches on Weekends only

ORGANIZED BY **LEO** entertainment

For registration send e-mail to [leo.eventsbd@gmail.com](mailto:leo.eventsbd@gmail.com) or call at 01717657096