

## Jamal nine off the pace

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh golfer Jamal Hossain made the cut after the Panasonic Open India's second round, which was reduced to 54 holes following fog disruptions Friday.

The Bangladeshi started off the second round in excellent touch, carding a birdie on his very first hole at the picturesque Delhi Golf Club. He followed that with two more birdies on holes four and six, but then it all unravelled for the 31-year-old.

He hit a bogey on the 10th and returned double-bogeys on the 12th and 14th holes, before restoring some respect to his outing with another birdie on the final hole.

That left him with an overall score of one-over-par, nine shots behind India's Mukesh Kumar, who leads the US 4,00,000 dollar tournament with a score of eight-under-par.

Behind him are country-man Khalin Joshi and Thailand's Jazz Janewattananond who both have scores of six-under-par.

However, with further fog delays expected across the next two days, the tournament committee has decided to reduce the tournament to three rounds.

## Lewandowski fires Bayern

AFP, Berlin

Robert Lewandowski scored twice as Bayern Munich moved back top of the Bundesliga on Friday after coming from an early goal down to win 3-1 at Mainz.

It puts the onus back on surprise-package RB Leipzig, who drop to second on goal difference but can reclaim top spot on Saturday with a draw or victory at home to mid-table Schalke.

German champions Bayern looked back to their best after a poor run by their high standards that saw them lose at Borussia Dortmund and then Russia's Rostov in the Champions League.

They got back on track by beating Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 last weekend and were good value for the three points at Mainz, who stunned the Bavarians last season on Bayern's way to the Bundesliga title.



Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos is ecstatic after scoring a dramatic late equalising goal during their La Liga El Clasico against Barcelona at the Nou Camp yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Ramos rescues lucky Real

AFP, Barcelona



Sergio Ramos's stoppage-time equaliser maintained Real Madrid's six-point lead at the top of La Liga as the European champions salvaged a 1-1 draw at Barcelona in Saturday's El Clasico.

Luis Suarez looked to have breathed new life into the title race when he headed home the opener from Neymar's free-kick eight minutes into the second half.

Neymar and Lionel Messi then passed up huge chances to add to Barca's advantage, and the hosts were made to pay when Real captain Ramos met Luka Modric's free-kick with a powerful header to stretch Madrid's unbeaten run in all competitions to 33 games.

Before kick-off both sides came together to pay homage to the 71 victims that wiped out almost the entirety of Brazilian side Chapecoense's squad in a plane crash in Colombia earlier in the week.

However, once the action got underway old hostilities were renewed as Madrid screamed for a penalty less than two minutes in.

Lucas Vazquez went down under Javier Mascherano's challenge, but referee Carlos Clos Gomez waved play on.

Barcelona enjoyed the majority of possession, but with captain Andres

Iniesta left on the bench on his return from a two-month injury layoff, lacked the creativity to break down Madrid before the break.

Sergi Roberto's shot was deflected behind by Raphael Varane before Messi's harmless free-kick was easily handled by Keylor Navas.

At the other end the spotlight was on Cristiano Ronaldo more than ever in the absence of the injured Gareth Bale and following allegations of grand scale tax avoidance published by a series of European media organisations on Saturday.

MATCH STATS			
BARCA		REAL	
	<b>1-1</b>		
<b>55%</b>	Possession	<b>45%</b>	
<b>7/3</b>	Shots/on Target	<b>9/6</b>	
<b>19</b>	Fouls	<b>16</b>	
<b>4</b>	Yellow Cards	<b>2</b>	
<b>0</b>	Red Cards	<b>0</b>	
<b>19</b>	Free Kicks	<b>16</b>	
<b>5</b>	Corners	<b>7</b>	
<b>1</b>	Offsides	<b>2</b>	

The Portuguese came to life towards the end of the first-half as he had Madrid's first shot on target that was turned behind by Marc-Andre ter Stegen eight minutes before half-time and the German stood firm to deny another driven Ronaldo effort moments later.

Varane also headed straight at Ter Stegen as Madrid looked the more likely to break the deadlock as half-time approached.

However, Barca got the goal they badly needed to kickstart their title defence when Neymar's free-kick from the left found Suarez somehow unmarked to head home from point blank range.

Iniesta was then introduced to a hero's welcome and teed up Neymar for a huge chance to seal the three points 21 minutes from time.

The Brazilian skipped past Dani Carvajal, but blasted over the bar with the goal at his mercy.

Madrid substitute Casemiro then made a brilliant block to deny another goalbound Neymar shot.

Iniesta produced a sublime pass to lay the chance Messi had been waiting for all afternoon on a plate, but the Argentine pulled his effort wide of the far post with just Navas to beat.

And Barca were made to pay for their profligacy as Ramos rose unmarked to power home Modric's free-kick as the game entered stoppage time to silence the Camp Nou.

# Chelsea keep flying

AFP, Manchester



Diego Costa starred as Premier League leaders Chelsea roared back to win 3-1 on Saturday in an ill-tempered game at Manchester City, who had Sergio Aguero and Fernandinho dismissed.

Gary Cahill's own goal gave City the lead, but Costa equalised and teed up substitute Willian before Eden Hazard struck to send Antonio Conte's men four points clear of City at the summit.

City's frustration boiled over in stoppage time with Aguero and Fernandinho red-carded, the former for a disgraceful lunge on David Luiz, the latter for pushing Cesc Fabregas over an advertising board.

"I think today was very tough and the game was open until the end," said Conte. "I saw lots of character from my team and that's very important. We must continue to work and improve."

It was the second time in succession that Chelsea had come from behind to win, having done so against Tottenham Hotspur last weekend, as they recorded their eighth successive victory.

Pep Guardiola tasted defeat at the Etihad Stadium for the first time as City manager and has now seen his side go four home games without a win.

City were left to rue some profligate finishing, but although referee Anthony Taylor attracted the home fans' ire for rejecting four penalty appeals, their own discipline let them down.

# It's now Rugganj and Shinepukur

SPORTS REPORTER



After finishing as the two bottom-placed sides in last season's Dhaka Premier Cricket League, Kalabagan Cricket Academy and Cricket Coaching School (CCS) were supposed to play this season's First Division Cricket League.

However, it will be Shinepukur Cricket Club and Rugganj Tiger Club who will be playing the league instead. According to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), this has happened as Shinepukur -- a sister concern of Beximco Group and Gazi Group -- have bought these two clubs after they defaulted on their players' payments and renamed them.

Riaz Ahmed Babu, joint secretary of CCS, went to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday to attend a meeting called by the CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan) on preparations for the First Division League, but he was not allowed to attend.

"I went there because we didn't know anything about it. They didn't inform us and most importantly we don't know what procedure they followed to scrap the names of two clubs. As a guardian of 76 clubs, CCDM also didn't inform [us of] anything. CCDM failed to give any explanation. I told them that they just set a bad precedence which may jeopardise many clubs' fates in the future," Babu told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

When asked, CCDM member secretary Rakib Haider Pavel expressed his helplessness in providing any explanation regarding Babu's claim.

"It's not possible for me to give any explanation and reason behind the entry of two new names. BCB sent the new names to CCDM and we proceeded accordingly," said Pavel.

# Ctg Abahani keep the pressure

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong Abahani kept the pressure on league leaders Abahani with a 1-0 victory over Arambagh Krira Sangha in their JB Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday. Nigerian defender Alison Udoka scored the winning goal for the port city side with a towering header in the 29th minute as Chittagong Abahani took their tally to 37 points from 18 matches, with four matches still remaining.

League leaders Abahani are two points ahead having played 17 matches so far.

The port city side dominated possession, attacking from the beginning and took the lead when Udoka rose high to head in Mamunul Islam's in-swinging corner, giving Arambagh goalkeeper Mitul Hasan no chance to stop it.

Minutes later, Chittagong Abahani came close to doubling the lead when Chencho Gyetshen provided a powerful cross inside the box for Tarik Al Janabi, but the Algerian midfielder failed to make a good connection with the ball.

Arambagh, a youthful side currently sitting in seventh position with 21 points, should have found the equaliser on the stroke of half time when Sajib Hossain was teed up with a minus inside the box after a counterattack which initiated from the right side found him inside the box. However, the young striker stabbed the ball hopelessly wide of target.

The second half followed the same pattern, with Chittagong Abahani enjoying the lion's share of possession, but thanks to wasted opportunities from their strikers they ended the game with the slimmest margin of victories.

# Diego arrives for Castro funeral

AFP, Havana

Declaring "I feel Cuban," Argentine football great Diego Maradona has arrived in Cuba to attend the funeral of his "second father," the late communist leader Fidel Castro.

"I feel like the world has lost its leader," Maradona told Cuban state television after landing late Thursday.

"There can be a lot of players today, but he was the owner of the world team, because in South America today, or in Europe if you like, there is no leader as charismatic or capable of resolving things," he said.

Castro - who died on November 25 at age 90 - and Maradona forged a close friendship since the former Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Napoli legend visited Cuba in 1987.

Cubans are observing a nine-day period of national mourning.

The ashes will be laid to rest on Sunday at the cemetery where 19th century independence hero Jose Marti is buried.

SONY

Sony-Rangs

YEAR END

MEGA EXPLOSIVE SALE

SPECIAL OFFERS

LATEST PRODUCTS

EXCLUSIVE PREMIUM GIFTS

7% Discount + Free Gift PS4

on X9300D, X9000C, X8500D, X8300C X8000C & W800C Series

Free Carrying Case + T-shirt + 16GB SD Card

Free Carrying Case + Special Price

Free Carrying Case

Free Selfie Stick + T-shirt

Internet TV

Special Offer + PWP

32" Power Bank TV

EXTRA BASS

Portable Wireless Speaker with Bluetooth

30% OFF

on all models Headphones

6/12 Months EMI Facilities

Available at SONY RANGS

RANGS.Electronics Ltd.

Sanatoli Tower: 9663556, Shimanto Square: 9650905, Airport Road: 8124986, Farmgate: 9130200, Sony Centre Bashundhara City: 9144664, Sony Centre [Sony Mobile & Gadget Store]: 9110753, PathanMor: 9555519, 9563433, Stadium: 1:9555594, Stadium:2: 9552276, Stadium:3: 9554149, Mouchal: 9393670, Labaria: 918828, Mohammadpur: 8144992, Sony Centre, JCC: 01730073562, Sony Centre, Gulshan: 1:9883344, 9882255 Gulshan:2: 01974625895, 9880516, Starata: 7911632, Labag: 5894937, Labakkar: 9578929, Barabari: 722078, Badda [Holland Centre]: 9850545, Mirpur: 1: 9050878, Mirpur: 10: 9050843, Ibrahimpur: 5872098, Sherwara: 905334, Dhanabari: 7443236, Jigra: 772026, Sava: 7742831, Nagerbarghat: 7622774, Jamuna Future Park [JFP]: 0173015550, Northingsid: 63086, Gazipur: 0185684239, Gazipur Chowrasta: 01735091992, Joydevpur: 01732445464Mawa: 0171928881, Tangile: 017336995, Kapasia: 01731511992, Myememng: 0152462278, Jamapur: 0173105086, Kishorengang: 0942-33340, 0174323354, Siragang: 017365044, Comilla: 58166567, Laksham: 081221184, Mujib: 03263462, Chittagong Wawa Corner: 0161134, CIG New Market: 0173841771, 63378, CIG Kaptai: 03171280, CIG Hailshah: 03171280, CIG Chawki Bazar: 031253774, Coy Bazar: 03451930, Khagachari: 03762429, Bardaban: 036162164, Rajshahi: 786275, 75864, Chulna: 722605, 739898, Jessore: 67331, Jessore: 2: 6274, 0170266401, Kuthia: 63731, 0170247889, Chourmuhoni: 52007, Barisal: 64052, 0172010412, Barisal: 2: 52022, 0176594818, Kallia, Boga: 0185307005, Nababbariliga: 3144, 60056, 01718547233, Sylhet: 710771, 723505, Moulvibazar: 53701, Habiganj: 62389, Naxal: 6238, 0913-20572, Shatkhira: 62607, Mappura: 62597, 01716436680, Chapinababgonj: 0172095267, Natore: 62189, Naogaon: 0741812771, 0171256750 Ishwardi: 63057, Pabna: 51813, Brahmanbaria: 58789, 0171705838, Ramgonj: 01816690666, Rangpur: 0521-62141, 01799380344, Dinajpur: 61087