

## FOOTBALLER KILLED BY CROCODILE

A young Mozambican football player was snatched and killed by a crocodile while training along the banks of a river, his club said on Monday. Estevao Alberto Gino, 19, who played for Mozambique's second division club Atletico Mineiro de Tete, lived near the Zambezi river in the western province of Tete. The incident happened last Thursday. "On that night, he was training and after jogging he stretched his hands into the water and that was when the crocodile caught him," coach Eduardo Carvalho told AFP. Two neighbours who witnessed the attack estimated the crocodile to have been about five-metres (16-feet) long, and "they could not do anything" to save him, said Carvalho. Crocodile attacks are common along the Zambezi river. Local police spokesman Leonel Muchina confirmed the incident to AFP saying the footballer's body has not yet been found.

—AFP



# No steps to unite Mohammedan

SPORTS REPORTER

With the image of Mohammedan Sporting Club fading away as their performances on the ground reaching rock bottom, unity amongst the current and former officials, footballers and permanent members was sought in a bid to revive one of the country's most popular clubs. But now, one-and-a-half months after the initiative was taken, that unity seems like a distant dream.

On February 6, the directors of Mohammedan SC Ltd held a meeting with former general secretary Monirul Haque Chowdhury and other former club officials as well. During the meeting everyone agreed unanimously that they would revive the club's image by forming formidable squads for both cricket and football. However, they still have not presented any realistic form of a united Mohammedan SC as no further steps have been taken since.

"Those who promised us to come together did not communicate further. They, the sitting directors of the club, stick to their old policy of keeping the club under control rather than thinking of sports. They want to keep the lands of the club under their full control," claimed Monirul Haque Chowdhury over phone yesterday.

On the other hand the director-in-charge of Mohammedan SC, Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan said that there was no follow-up of that meeting as no one contacted him or

other and directors despite their eager wait. "The meeting that was held last month finished there and there has been no trace of those people. No one is found when the matter of money comes in front but you will find many people in the movement. No one has any headache about running the club while everyone is busy pushing each other," Lokman said. "Since that meeting, we, eight to nine directors, had waited for eight to 10 days that they would come to talk with us but they did not come. Rather they asked me to step out."

When asked whether it is still possible to unite Mohammedan again if everyone made an effort, Lokman answered, "Who is everyone? We have 330 permanent members who are owners of the club and I can't take any decision without them. I can only take recommendations because it is a limited company. I am still ready to talk to them and give them time."

Meanwhile, Badal Roy, former club official and former footballer, echoed Monirul's thoughts: "Director-in-charge Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan was supposed to call us for the follow-up meeting after discussing the matter with the board of directors but he did not sit with his directors and did not take any initiative to unite the club."

On paper, Mohammedan SC already have a good cricket squad but their football squad is expected to lag behind as the Black and Whites have assembled a team with of young and veteran players who were out of form last season.

## New Zealand unchanged for 3rd Test

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand's squad will remain unchanged for the third Test against South Africa in Hamilton despite the mauling the Black Caps received in Wellington, chief selector Gavin Larsen said Monday.

Larsen ruled out an overhaul after New Zealand slumped to an eight-wicket loss within three days in the second Test in Wellington, insisting the country's best players were already in the squad.

"We've got 100 percent faith in the fact that we've got what we think is the best group of Test cricketers in the country and a Test match to win in Hamilton," he told reporters.

Larsen said strike bowler Trent Boult, who missed the second Test with a sore leg, was hopeful about starting in Hamilton on Saturday.

But he said batting stalwart Ross Taylor was expected to miss another Test as he recovers from a calf tear.



Roger Federer of Switzerland lifts the Indian Wells Masters trophy after his victory over compatriot Stan Wawrinka in California on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Federer wins fifth Indian Wells title

AFP, Indian Wells

Roger Federer claimed a record-equalling fifth ATP Indian Wells Masters title on Sunday, continuing his career resurgence with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Stan Wawrinka.

Federer, sidelined some six months after knee surgery last year, returned to win his 18th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January.

With Sunday's triumph in the all-Swiss final, Federer joined Novak Djokovic as the only men to win five Indian Wells titles, adding to those he won in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2012.

At 35, Federer is the oldest ATP player to win one of the elite Masters titles, supplanting Andre Agassi who was 34 when he won in Cincinnati in 2004.

While Federer had won 19 of 22 prior meetings with Wawrinka, he noted that his compatriot would be no easy mark as he played his first tournament in America since winning the US Open in September.

But Federer claimed a tightly contested

first set with a break in the 10th game, pushing Wawrinka into a forehand error to end a tense rally for a set point, on which Wawrinka sent another forehand long.

Wawrinka responded immediately with a break to open the first set -- after Federer had held all 42 of his service games in the tournament to that point.

He had saved the lone break point he faced against Rafael Nadal in the fourth round, but sent a backhand long on break point to give Wawrinka the advantage in the set.

Wawrinka then withstood two break points to hold for a 2-0 lead, which proved short-lived as Federer won the next three games to take a 3-2 lead.

Finally Wawrinka found himself serving to save the match. A backhand into the net gave Federer a chance, and he seized it with a volley winner.

"I've lost some tough ones against you, but when you played the final in Australia, I was your biggest fan," a choked up Wawrinka told Federer at the trophy ceremony. "So congratulations on your comeback and congratulations on today."

## QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

### Wenger wants to stay on

The Daily Telegraph and Daily Mirror said Wenger will inform Arsenal's board he wants to extend his contract, which expires at the end of the season.

### Cuadrado saves Juventus blushes

Massimiliano Allegri hailed an "important step forward" as

jittery Juventus edged closer to a record sixth consecutive scudetto with a precious 1-0 win at Sampdoria.

### A defeat too hard to swallow for SL

When Bangladesh showcased their 100th Test with a magnificent four-wicket win against Sri Lanka in Colombo, the home side termed the loss as the biggest embarrassment in their history of Test cricket.

### Sir Alex returns as Man Utd boss

Sir Alex Ferguson will return to the dugout and take charge of the Manchester United team for Michael Carrick's testimonial.

### Muller gives Bayern win

Bayern Munich extended their Bundesliga lead to 13 points as Thomas Mueller capped his 250th league appearance with a rare goal in Sunday's 1-0 victory at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

### Test heroes enjoy day off

After five days of toil produced the sweetest reward with

Bangladesh's first Test win against Sri Lanka, the Test heroes were in relaxed mood on the following morning.



The ICC Champions Trophy 2017 was on display at the BCB headquarters in Mirpur yesterday. It is now in Bangladesh as part of its travel to all eight participating nations. The ICC Champions Trophy will commence in England on June 1.

PHOTO: STAR

# Italy ring the changes

AFP, Milan

Juventus pair Claudio Marchisio and Giorgio Chiellini were left at home as Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura called five new players into an enlarged 27-man squad for upcoming games against Albania and the Netherlands.

Italy host Albania in Palermo in a 2018 World Cup qualifier on Friday before facing the Dutch in Amsterdam on March 28 as Ventura looks further ahead to a possible Group C qualifying decider away to leaders Spain on September 2.

Spain, who held Italy to a draw in Turin last year, currently lead the group on 10 points, the same as second-placed Italy, with Israel just one point further adrift in third.

Marchisio, who sat on the bench nursing a knock on Sunday as Juve snatched a 1-0 win at Sampdoria, will play no part after being left off Ventura's 27-man list, enlarged from an initial 25 amid worries over Fiorentina midfielder Federico Bernardeschi, who suffered a scare on Sunday morning and sat out a 1-0 win at Crotona.

With Juve defender Chiellini also nursing injury, Ventura has called up Inter Milan defender Danilo D'Ambrosio, Atalanta defender Leonardo Spinazzola, Bologna winger Simone Verdi and Serie B goalkeeper Alex Meret, who plays for SPAL, on loan from Udinese, in Italy's second division.

The Italy coach was later forced to call up Atalanta striker Andrea Petagna after Southampton's Manolo Gabbiadini suffered injury in a defeat at Tottenham.

SQUAD	
<b>GOALKEEPERS</b>	
Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Gianluigi Donnarumma (AC Milan), Alex Meret (SPAL)	
<b>DEFENDERS</b>	
Davide Astori (Fiorentina), Andrea Barzagli (Juventus), Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus), Matteo Darmian (Manchester United), Danilo D'Ambrosio (Inter Milan), Mattia De Sciglio (AC Milan), Alessio Romagnoli (AC Milan), Daniele Rugani (Juventus), Leonardo Spinazzola (Atalanta), Davide Zappacosta (Torino)	
<b>MIDFIELDERS</b>	
Daniele De Rossi (Roma), Roberto Gagliardini (Inter), Marco Parolo (Lazio), Marco Verratti (Paris Saint Germain), Federico Bernardeschi (Fiorentina), Antonio Candreva (Inter Milan), Lorenzo Insigne (Napoli), Matteo Politano (Sassuolo), Nicola Sansone (Villarreal/ESP), Simone Verdi (Bologna)	
<b>FORWARDS</b>	
Andrea Belotti (Torino), Eder (Inter), Ciro Immobile (Lazio), Andrea Petagna (Atalanta)	

## Pep rues lack of goals

AFP, Manchester

Sharper finishing is all that is required to take Manchester City to the next level, manager Pep Guardiola said after his side's 1-1 draw with Liverpool.

Guardiola's cavalier approach came under scrutiny after City fell to a 3-1 defeat at Monaco last week that saw them eliminated from the Champions League on away goals after a 6-6 aggregate draw.

Sergio Aguiero's 69th-minute equaliser meant City emerged with a point from Sunday's ding-dong battle with Liverpool, but Guardiola said his forwards' lack of ruthlessness was holding the team back.

"When you score goals, after that the game is in our hands and you have more control," he said.

"We have clear chances in front of the goalkeeper and we don't score goals. That's why you cannot compete with the top teams.

"To achieve that target, you have to be clinical."

Aguiero's strike, from Kevin De Bruyne's superb right-wing cross, cancelled out former City player James Milner's 51st-minute penalty.

City squandered a glut of chances late on, with Aguiero particularly culpable, but despite identifying his side's profligacy as a key failing, Guardiola said there was nothing he could do to improve it.

# Messi on the double

REUTERS, Barcelona



Lionel Messi scored twice as La Liga champions Barcelona saw off a persistent Valencia side, who had Eliaquim Mangala sent off in the first half, to win 4-2 on Sunday and stay on the heels of leaders Real Madrid.

Manchester City loanee Mangala stunned the Nou Camp by heading Valencia in front in the 29th minute but Luis Suarez soon cancelled out the opener following a quick throw-in by Neymar and the Uruguayan then won a penalty as he was hauled down by Mangala, who was sent off for a second booking.

Messi beat penalty-saving expert Diego Alves from the spot for the second time this season to pull Barca level in the 45th minute but Munir El Haddadi, who is on loan from the Catalans, equalised immediately in injury time of the first half.

Barca dominated the second half and took the lead for the second time when Messi smashed the ball past Alves's near post but the visiting side created an opening to level again but Munir squandered the chance.

Former Valencia midfielder Andre Gomes then scored his first goal for Barcelona to make sure of the points.

Barca are second in the standings on 63 points, two behind Real who have a game in hand.

"We controlled the game but they made the most of a set piece and a counter attack. Overall we played well,

we played at a high tempo and in general we can be happy with the game," Barca captain Andres Iniesta told reporters.

"The title race is still alive and we're obliged to stay up there and take advantage of any opportunity we get if Real Madrid slip up."

Earlier, Antoine Griezmann scored for the fifth time in four league games and provided an assist as Atletico Madrid beat Sevilla 3-1 to move to within two points of Jorge Sampaoli's third-placed side in the La Liga standings.

The France international delivered a cross from a free kick for Diego Godin to head in the opener in the 37th minute then sent the ball fizzing in off the bar from a set-piece in the 61st

while Koke tapped in the third in the 77th to seal a third straight league win for Atletico.

Joaquin Correa scored a consolation goal for Sevilla in the 85th.

While Atletico are in the midst of a good run of results Sevilla are in freefall. They have failed to win any of their last four games in all competitions. They have now lost their last two matches as they went out of the Champions League following a 2-0 defeat at Leicester City on Tuesday.

Sevilla have 57 points while Atletico are in fourth place on 55.

"Sevilla have had a magnificent season, praised by everyone and so this makes our performance even more laudable," Atletico coach Diego Simeone told reporters.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi (R) celebrates one of his two goals with teammate Luis Suarez during their La Liga match at the Nou Camp on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## ASIAN YOUTH VOLLEYBALL BD team to depart on Friday

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh team will depart for Myanmar on Friday to take part in the Asian Youth Boys' Volleyball Championship which will be held in Naypyidaw from 28 March to 5 April.

Thirteen teams, split into four groups, will participate in the tournament which will also serve as the Asian Qualifiers for the 2017 FIVE Volleyball Championship. Bangladesh have been drawn in Pool B along with Iran and South Korea.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals.

Bangladesh will play their first match against South Korea on March 28 before facing Iran on March 30.

## Enrique backs Gomes to come good

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona coach Luis Enrique insisted midfielder Andre Gomes will become a pillar of the Catalans' midfield after silencing his critics with his first goal for the club in a 4-2 win over Valencia on Sunday.

Enrique has attracted criticism himself for keeping faith with Gomes despite his underwhelming performances since moving for a fee that could rise to 55 million euros (\$59 million) from Valencia in July.

"Andre Gomes will be a very valuable player for Barca in the future, you will see," said Enrique.

"He combines unique physical and technical abilities for a player of his profile and the fans treated him well."

The Portuguese has been roundly jeered by the Barca fans in recent weeks, but the majority of the Camp Nou backed his introduction for Rafinha 16 minutes from time despite some whistles.

And Barca defender Gerard Pique told those fans not backing their players to stay at home.

"The whistling of Andre Gomes is intolerable," said the Spanish international.

"Those who come to whistle should stay at home."