

# What to WATCH

**GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
Tri-nation ODI series  
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe  
Live from 12:00pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
English Premier League  
Man United v Stoke City  
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

New Zealand v Pakistan  
4th ODI  
Live from 7:00am (Tuesday)

**TEN 1 & TEN 3**  
South Africa v India  
2nd Test, Day-3  
Live from 2:00pm

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
ICC U-19 World Cup  
India v Papua New Guinea  
Live from 7:00am (Tuesday)

**SONY SIX**  
Australian Open  
1st Round  
Live from 6:00am (Tuesday)

**TEN 2**  
La Liga  
Real Betis v Leganes  
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Tri-Nation ODI Series**  
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe

Time: 12:00pm  
Venue: SBNCs, Dhaka

**Bangladesh Cricket League**  
Four-Day Match, Day-1

Time: 9:30am  
North Zone v East Zone

Venue: SICS, Sylhet  
South Zone v Central Zone

Venue: BKSP, Savar

# Under the radar, a milestone round

MAZHAR UDDIN

While most of Bangladesh is captivated by international cricket, two of the country's veterans will be inching towards significant milestones in the less-glamorous domestic circuit.

The tri-series match between the Tigers and Zimbabwe today will draw most of the attention, but left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak and batsman Tushar Imran may steal some of that thunder as they take the field for Prime Bank South Zone against Walton Central Zone in the second round of the Bangladesh Cricket League at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Razzak is just a wicket away from becoming the first Bangladeshi to scalp 500 wickets in first-class cricket while teammate Tushar is 35 runs shy of becoming the first Bangladeshi to score ten thousand first-class runs.

Razzak needed ten wickets to reach the landmark when South Zone faced Islami Bank East Zone in the first round, but the left-armed could bag only nine -- six in the first innings and three in the second -- to take his tally to 499, having to wait just a little longer to try and record the feat.

The 35-year-old, who made his ODI debut in 2004, is the Tigers' third-highest wicket-taker with 207 scalps in 153 games and has played a few crucial roles in the side's successes throughout his national career. The cricketer from Khulna played his last ODI in 2014 against West Indies and has a total of 12 Test and 34 T20I appearances to his name.

On the other hand, Tushar started the first round game on 9,860 runs before going on to smash his 25th first-class ton, the most by a Bangladeshi, before being dismissed for 105. As South Zone did not take the field for their second innings as East batted out the remainder of the match, the right-hander was also made to wait for the next round.

The 34-year-old played in 41 ODIs and five Tests since his international debut in 2001 but was unable to sustain his career on that stage following a series of disappointing results. However, the stylish middle order batsman has been a prolific run-scorer in the domestic circuit.

In the other match of the day, defending champions North Zone, who registered a comfortable nine-wicket win over Central Zone in the first round, will take on East Zone at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.



Someone would have achieved the feat at some point, but it definitely feels good to achieve it. I never set any targets like achieving this milestone, I just kept playing and tried to contribute. Obviously I want to set a standard for future cricketers.

### ABDUR RAZZAK

Mat	Wkts	Runs	BBI	Ave	Eco	5w	10w
112	499	14529	9/84	29.11	2.87	30	8

### TIMELINE PER 100 WICKETS

100 wickets:	2004/05 season
200 wickets:	2012/13 season
300 wickets:	2013/14 season
400 wickets:	2015/16 season

### RAZZAK'S BEST

Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Econ	Opposition
32.3	5	84	9	2.58	Chittagong Division Nov 9, 2012
35.2	7	91	9	2.57	Dhaka Metro April 12, 2012
29	6	100	8	3.44	Barisal Div Feb 1, 2015
25.5	4	123	8	4.76	Barisal Div Oct 23, 2011
26.2	9	58	7	2.20	North Zone Jan 12, 2016

### TUSHAR IMRAN

Mat	Inn	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
153	260	9,965	220	42.04	25	53

### TIMELINE PER 1,000 RUNS

Runs	Years	Runs	Years
1,000	2000-05	6,000	2012-13
2,000	2005-06	7,000	2013-15
3,000	2006-07	8,000	2015-16
4,000	2007-09	9,000	2016-17
5,000	2009-12	9,965	2017-18

### TUSHAR'S BEST

Runs	4s	6s	SR	Opposition
220	22	3	59.62	North Zone, Feb 19, 2017
217	21	0	64.20	Central Zone Mar 5, 2017
203 not out	23	0	54.56	Rajshahi Division Feb 16, 2015
198	27	2	82.50	Dhaka Division, Mar 17, 2006
177 not out	24	0	52.52	Sylhet Division Jan 25, 2015

\*Stats collected from Cricinfo, Cricket Archive

I have been playing for long time and I always had the desire to achieve such a feat. Playing both the National Cricket League and the Bangladesh Cricket League in the same season helps me as I get more matches. As you may have seen, I scored over 2,500 runs in the last season.



# THE STAGE TO SET THE TONE

For many the tennis season begins tomorrow with the opening round of the Australian Open, the first of the four calendar Grand Slams. Over a fortnight the tennis world's finest will take the stage at the Melbourne Park, including stalwarts such as top-seeded Rafael Nadal and defending champion Roger Federer. However, there will be multiple threats to their battle for supremacy, mainly in the form of the returning Novak Djokovic and the young German, Alexander Zverev. Although there will be a few key absences such as Andy Murray in the men's circuit, the greatest loss will be that of Serena Williams in the women's race. The American's absence means the women's race is an unpredictable affair.



### HEAVY IS THE HEAD...

Defending champion Roger Federer says rivals Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic should be seen as leading contenders for the Australian Open as he is too old to be considered favourite.

The 36-year-old is bidding for a record 20th Grand Slam title and is in form and fit, unlike the Spaniard and the Serb who enter the tournament under injury clouds. But the Swiss said that at his age and in his 19th Australian Open, he liked to play down his chances.

"With age, I feel like I play down my chances just because I don't think a 36-year-old should be a favourite of a tournament, it should not be the case," the world number two said Sunday. "That's why I see things more relaxed, you know, at a later stage of my career."

"I feel like maybe somebody like a Rafa, with the year that he's had, and Novak with the six titles he's had here, even if it's unknown how he's feeling, they could very well be the favourites, too."

### STARTING FROM ZERO

Top seed Rafael Nadal starts the Australian Open next week for the first time in his career without playing a warm-up tournament, and no uncle Toni by his side. But the Spanish star said Saturday he feels good and his motivation remains strong.

"It's the first time I am here without playing an official match in my career. It's a new situation for me. But I feel good," he said.

"For me, the Australian Open always, if you are not 100 per cent motivated to play this tournament, you probably you don't love this sport," the 31-year-old added.

But he knows anything can happen so early in the season, despite being the top ranked player in the world.

"Everyone starts from zero. I start from zero again. It's the start of a new season, an exciting one. I hope to be healthy and competitive, and most important thing, I hope to enjoy tennis one more year."

The Spaniard has a tune-up, with organisers obliging his request to play a game under match conditions.

### READY TO BATTLE THE BEST

Six-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic says he's excited to be back after a long injury-enforced break, admitting he has missed the "fire and passion" of competitive tennis.

Djokovic said his elbow injury got to the point where the pain on his serve was becoming unbearable, with a sustained period of rest the only cure.

"It hasn't been 100 per cent yet healed. But right now it's at the level where I can compete, and every day is getting better," he said.

He added that he did not know whether he would be able to compete at the highest level.

"Throughout the tournament, I don't know how it's going to behave. Even if it's 100 per cent healed, after six months of no competition, you never know."

But his confidence is high and he warned he could still go far.

"I still know what I'm capable of, and I believe in my own abilities to win against the best players in the world," he said ahead of his opening round clash.

### GUNNING FOR A FIRST

Giant German Alexander Zverev has been widely tipped for greatness but has so far failed to go beyond a Grand Slam fourth round -- something he plans to fix at the Australian Open. The 20-year-old heads into the year's first Grand Slam ranked fourth in the world, courtesy of five titles last year.

His progress has marked him out as the most likely of the current crop of youngsters to translate his talent into major titles and while he made the fourth round at Wimbledon last year, he is yet to push on further.

"I think improving the Grand Slam performances," he said at Melbourne Park when asked what his key goal was for the year. "I've showed on multiple occasions over the year that I can play and beat the best guys in the world. I mean, I'm number four in the world for a reason," he said.

"I'm not trying to sound cocky or anything, but I've always said that I've always been working hard physically, I'm always trying to improve the performance at the Grand Slams."

### WHO WILL FILL THE VACUUM LEFT BY SERENA?

Simona Halep will sport her "lucky" red dress and Caroline Wozniacki says she is playing better than ever as both aim for a first Grand Slam victory when the Australian Open starts on Monday.

The world's two top-ranked players will spearhead the charge to succeed Serena Williams as year's first major left wide open by the withdrawal of the defending champion and new mum.

Last year there were two first-time major-winners while Serena was on maternity leave -- Jelena Ostapenko at the French Open and Sloane Stephens at the US Open.

Wimbledon champion and world number three Garbine Murguruza is battling injury problems which could further aid Halep's hopes.

And the 26-year-old Romanian, who currently has no clothing sponsor, confirmed she would wear the same "lucky" red dress in Australia that she used while registering a dominant victory at the Shenzhen Open a fortnight ago.

But lucky dress or not, she will need to overcome her poor record at Melbourne Park where she has lost in the first round in both of the past two years when she opens on Tuesday against Australian wildcard Destinee Aiava.

Former number one Wozniacki is riding high in the rankings again after reaching eight finals in 2017, with victories in Tokyo in September and at the season-ending Tour Championship.

She lost in the Auckland Classic final last week to Germany's Julia Goerges, but said the rain-disrupted tournament had been tough, ideal preparation.

Former champions aiming to go deep into the tournament include evergreen 37-year-old Venus Williams, who last won a Slam in 2008 but last year reached two finals -- in Melbourne and Wimbledon -- to get back to world number five, and Angelique Kerber.

Victory for Venus would see her eclipse Ken Rosewall as the oldest player ever to win a major.

# Liverpool demolish City

Wenger benches wantaway Sanchez in Bournemouth loss

AFP, London



Liverpool demolished Manchester City to their first Premier League defeat of the season on Sunday as Arsenal's defeat was marked by the missing Alexis Sanchez, who looks set to leave the club imminently.

Jürgen Klopp sent out an attack-minded line-up and was rewarded with a scintillating 4-3 win at a jubilant Anfield, where the emotions were in sharp contrast to Wenger's misery after a 2-1 loss at struggling Bournemouth.

At Anfield, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's early strike was cancelled out by Leroy Sané's goal shortly before half-time but three goals in nine scintillating minutes stunned Pep Guardiola's men.

Two late goals gave City hope but they fell just short in their desperate bid to keep their unbeaten run going.

The result means that City remain 15 points clear of second-placed Manchester United at the top of the Premier League table ahead of United's match at home to struggling Stoke on Monday. Liverpool leapfrog Chelsea into third spot.

Klopp's side, in their first match since Philippe Coutinho left to join Barcelona, showed they still have enviable depth in attack, taking the lead in the ninth minute when Oxlade-Chamberlain marauded forward and thundered a shot past City stopper Ederson.

The home side held onto their lead until five minutes before half-time, when Leroy Sané gathered a raking cross-field ball from Kyle Walker and beat Loris Karius at his near post with a ras-

ing left-foot shot that the Liverpool keeper should have saved.

Guardiola's team looked in control after the break before Liverpool's goal glut.

Roberto Firmino dinked a clever shot in off the post after outmuscling John Stones to a through ball from Chamberlain and just two minutes later Sadio Mané smashed a shot into the top corner to make it 3-1.

With City routed, Mohamed Salah scored the fourth with a left-footed shot from more than 35 yards out after Ederson had misplaced a clearance. City scored late through Bernardo Silva and Ilkay Gundogan but ran out of time.

Earlier, Arsene Wenger left Chile international Sanchez out of his squad to travel to Bournemouth as transfer speculation swirls over a potential move to Manchester City or Manchester United.

# BFF to look into Sk Jamal v Farashganj match

SPORTS REPORTER



Having taken Farashganj's questionable win over Sheikh Jamal into account, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has finally referred the game to the Match Fixing Identification Committee for investigation. The decision was made on Saturday.

"The Bangladesh Premier League match between Sheikh Jamal DC and Farashganj SC, which raised questions, was referred to the Match Fixing Identification Committee on Saturday. We also sent newspaper cuttings and video footage from seven to eight electronic media outlets to the committee. They have been asked to call a meeting this week," informed BFF general secre-

tary Abu Nayeem Shohag yesterday.

On Thursday, runners-up Sheikh Jamal suffered a 3-1 defeat against Farashganj whom they had handed a 5-0 defeat in the first meeting of the league. The outcome helped Farashganj move above Rahmatganj to 11th position with 17 from 22 matches.

However, Farashganj eventually failed to avoid relegation after Rahmatganj themselves notched a questionable 2-0 win over Saif SC on Saturday, the concluding day of the 10th edition of the league.

Replying to a query, Shohag said, "I am yet to get any instruction regarding the match between Rahmatganj and Saif SC, but I will talk about it to professional league committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy tomorrow [Monday]."

## 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:

### Zidane and Real Madrid under fire after defeat

The Spanish press did not hold back in their criticism of a "shattered" Real Madrid, a team "in crisis" after their 1-0 home defeat at the hands of Villarreal in La Liga.

### Roy's record 180 inspires England to victory

Opener Jason Roy recorded the highest-ever one-day international score by an England player as the tourists finally had something to celebrate with a five-wicket win over Australia on Sunday.

### Delhi Daredevils want Shakib

IPL outfit Delhi Daredevils want Bangladesh's ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan in their team for the upcoming India Premier League (IPL), reports suggested.

### Hoge seizes opportunity after false missile alert rocks PGA Tour

Tom Hoge seized the third-round lead at the Sony Open on Saturday as US PGA Tour golfers shook off the panic caused by mis-taken missile alert and got down to business in Hawaii.

### Bangladesh handball team leave for Korea tomorrow

Bangladesh are all set to take part in top-level Asian handball for the first time as an 18-member squad will leave for South Korea tomorrow night to participate in the 18th Asian Men's Handball Championship, beginning in Suwon on January 18.

### On Spot Admission-Scholarship @Australian University

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