

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1
ICC Under-19 World Cup
India v Zimbabwe
Live from 6:45am (Friday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v Pakistan

Fifth ODI
Live from 4:00am (Friday)
SONY ESPN
Australia v England
Second ODI
Live from 9:00am (Friday)

SONY SIX & TEN 2
Australian Open
Second Round
Live from 2:00pm
Third Round
Live from 6:00am (Friday)

Bangladesh Cricket League
Four-Day Match, Day-4
Time: 9:30am
North Zone v East Zone

Venue: SICS, Sylhet
South Zone v Central Zone
Venue: BKSP, Savar

Independence Cup
Saif SC v Arambagh
Time: 3:30pm
Farshganj v Muktiyodha

Time: 5:45pm
Venue: BNS

DAY'S EVENT

CHINESE FANS ROUND ON 'RAT' TEVEZ

Furious Chinese football fans branded Carlos Tevez shameless and "a rat" on Wednesday after the Argentine striker described his ill-fated spell at Shanghai Shenhua as a "holiday for seven months". The 33-year-old struggled for form and fitness during a disastrous stint in China, where he was among the best-paid players in the world on a reported weekly salary of 730,000 euros. He brought his Chinese nightmare to a premature end when he returned to Boca Juniors earlier this month and on Monday joked with Argentine television channel TyC Sports: "It's fine because I was on holiday for seven months." That prompted an outpouring of anger on Chinese social media, with fans of a number of Chinese Super League (CSL) clubs rounding on the man often disparagingly labelled "very homesick boy" in the Asian country. Tevez missed half of Shenhua's CSL games injured, out of form or out of shape, and when he did play he failed to justify his hefty pay cheque, scoring just four league goals.

—AFP



500-up Razzak

SPORTS REPORTER



"It's a big achievement in my cricket career," Abdur Razzak expressed his emotion thusly after becoming

the first Bangladeshi to claim 500 first-class wickets yesterday.

The 35-year-old left-arm spinner may have achieved the feat silently at a tranquil BKSP cricket ground, but there was plenty of reason to cheer when he trapped Shadman Islam to seize the milestone scalp on the third day of the second round of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PRIME BANK SOUTH ZONE V WALTON CENTRAL ZONE
SOUTH ZONE: 448
CENTRAL ZONE: 313 for 2 in 94 overs (Shadman 89, Robiul 90, Raqibul 82 not out, Mehrab 42 not out; Razzak 1-87, Mahedi 1-62)
ISLAMI BANK EAST ZONE V BCB NORTH ZONE
NORTH ZONE: 187 and 273 for 8 in 77.2 overs (Nazmul 31, Mizanur 20, Farhad 85, Dhiman 23, Ariful 28, Suhrawardi 23, Reza 30 not out; Jayed 2-64, Khaled 4-86)
EAST ZONE: 211

After Tushar Imran's 10,000-run landmark, Razzak set another benchmark for the young cricketers



Ageless left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak returns with the ball which he will perhaps cherish forever, as it was the one that he claimed his record 500th first-class scalp with.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

in Bangladesh's first-class circuit.

Having started the round on 499 scalps, Razzak reached the landmark after 113 matches. Another left-arm spinner, Enamul Haque Jr, is following behind with 438 wickets from 112 matches while pacer Mohammad Sharif is in third place with 391 wickets from 129 matches. Razzak also holds the record for taking the most ten-wicket hauls in a match, doing so eight times.

Although he has been consistently proving his credentials on the domestic front since last playing an international match against the West Indies in August, 2014, the selectors have been reluctant to give him another chance. However, Razzak said that he would continue his career as long as he kept enjoying the game.

"It's a really good feeling to be the first bowler in my country to achieve

the feat of taking 500 first-class wickets. As a bowler it's a big achievement in my career. I enjoy cricket and that's why I cannot even think that I will say goodbye to the game. As long as I enjoy, I will continue to play," said Razzak.

However, on his record-breaking day, Razzak's solitary wicket did not have a big impact as Central Zone's batsmen batted brilliantly and ended the day on 313-2 in reply to South Zone's 448 and the match looks to be heading towards a draw.

Mahedi Hasan denied Robiul Islam from reaching the magical three digit figure before Razzak frustrated Shadman, who returned to the pavilion for 89, but the opening pair provided their team with a good platform as they piled on 171 runs. Rakibul Hasan was not out on 82 and Mehrab Hossain was unbeaten on 42 at the end of the day.

At the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium, Farhad Hossain's 85-run knock steered North Zone as they threw down a challenge to East Zone on the final day. The improved batting in the second innings saw North Zone finish the third day with a 249-run lead and two wickets in hand.

Farhad scored 85 off 184 balls that contained ten fours and a six, while Khaled Ahmed was most successful bowler for East with four wickets.



A dominant Rafael Nadal swept into the Australian Open third round to keep his Grand Slam title hunt on track Wednesday, swatting aside Argentina's Leonardo Mayer 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) at the Rod Laver Arena.

PHOTO: AFP

Abahani's winning start in treble bid

SPORTS REPORTER



Abahani's bid for a rare domestic treble got off to a positive start as the Federation Cup and Bangladesh Premier League champions handed a 2-0 defeat to Team BJMC in their opening match of the Walton Independence Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

Striker Nabib Newaj Jibon provided the Sky Blues with the break-through in the first half before midfielder Atiqur Rahman Fahad sealed the victory to all but confirm their quarterfinal berth from Group C. They just need a draw against Sheikh Russel on January 25 to ensure the last eight.

Abahani came into the Independence Cup after clinching their sixth title of the professional league as well as a 10-match unbeaten streak, and they played like champions for most part of the match.

However, the Sky Blues had a scrappy first 20 minutes and could have conceded the lead due to fumbles from goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Shohel.

Sohel first failed to clear a curling free-kick from Abdullah Parvez and the ball came to BJMC defender Khokon, who saw his goal-bound header intercepted by opposition defender Mamun Mia before it hit the

crossbar in the 14th minute. Four minutes later, the goalkeeper's poor clearance fell to unmarked Shariful Islam, but the striker failed to keep his shot on target.

The Dhanmondi giants regained confidence with exchange of passes and pressed hard for the opening goal, which came in the 24th minute when Jibon rose high to head home a long throw-in from Raihan Hasan.

Jibon was then presented with a cross by Saad Uddin in the 27th minute but his header went straight to BJMC goalkeeper Arifuzzaman Himel while Rubel Mia floated one over the crosspiece two minutes into the second half before driving miles off target in the 67th minute.

Rubel, however, turned provider in the 83rd minute when he cut the ball back to Fahad, who let loose a powerful right-footer from 25 yards to beat Himel.

Meanwhile, Mohammedan came from a goal down to hold Sheikh Jamal to a 1-1 draw in a Group A fixture earlier in the day.

Nurul Absar put Sheikh Jamal ahead in the 35th minute with a low shot after availing a poor clearance from opposition goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton. However, veteran striker Zahid Hasan Emily equalised in the 57th minute by heading home a free-kick from Mithun Chowdhury as both sides settled for a share of the spoils.

SK JAMAL 1-1 MOHAMMEDAN
(NURUL 35) (EMILY 57)
ABAHANI 2-0 TEAM BJMC
(JIBON 24, FAHAD 83)

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:

'Shouldn't give in to Ronaldo's demands'

Real Madrid should resist Cristiano Ronaldo's demands for a bumper new contract even if it leads to their all-time top scorer leaving the La Liga club, Real great Manolo Sanchis said on Wednesday.



WC would confirm Messi as best ever: Di Maria

Angel Di Maria believes that Lionel Messi has already proven everything to cement the very top spot for himself, but adds that a World Cup would put any debate to bed.



Maradona daughter's wedding fuels family drama

Dalma Maradona is due to marry Andres Caldarelli in April and apparently failed to invite her step-mother and the Argentine media are buzzing over whether Diego will attend at all.



The Magician hangs up his boots

AFP, Sao Paulo



Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho has formally confirmed his retirement from football, more than two years since his last appearance as a professional, reports in Brazil said Tuesday.

The 37-year-old former Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona star, a key member of the Brazil side which won the World Cup in 2002, last played in 2015 during a brief stint with Fluminense.

However his brother and agent Roberto Assis said he would not play again and would now concentrate on tribute events.

"He stopped, we're going to do something really big, nice, after the World Cup in Russia, probably in August, we'll do several events in Brazil, Europe and Asia, and of course, we're watching a game with the Brazilian team," Assis said.

Ronaldinho's career began with Gremio in Porto Alegre, his hometown, before he emerged as a star with French giants PSG.

He then spent five years with Barcelona between 2003 and 2008, where he gained the moniker 'The Magician', and helped the Catalans win the Champions League in 2006, after being awarded the Ballon D'Or in 2005.

He spent three more seasons in



Europe with AC Milan between 2008 and 2011. He returned to his homeland afterwards where he played with Flamengo and Atletico Mineiro, playing against Neymar in a memorable encounter.

A season in Mexico with Queretaro

was followed by his return to Brazil and Fluminense, for whom he played seven times before cutting short his contract.

For Brazil, Ronaldinho made 97 appearances, scoring 33 goals, including two in the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Hockey transfers next month?

SPORTS REPORTER

The newly formed ad-hoc committee of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) wants to complete the inter-club players' transfers before the departure of the national team for Oman for the qualifying tournament of the Asian Games.

Having formed eight sub committees to run hockey activities smoothly, the ad-hoc committee, chaired by its president and Air Chief Marshal Abu Esrar, expressed its desire to complete the transfers immediately. The committee gave a tentative date from February 18 to 20 as the national team is supposed to leave for Oman in the first week of March for the qualifying tournament, which is scheduled for March 9-16.

"The ad-hoc committee has given a tentative three-day timeline for the players' transfers from February 18 to 20 but the final date will be decided at the meeting of the league committee, which has been formed with DC of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Motijheel) and ad-hoc committee's treasurer Moinuzzaman Pila as its chairman and secretary respectively," BHF general secretary Abdus Sadeque said. "All clubs want to play the league and no-one opposed the transfers."

Out of the 31 members, three including Usha KC official Abdur Rashid Shikdar were absent. However, Usha KC president Tareq A Adel along with representatives of Mohammedan, Abahani, Mariner Youngs and the others clubs were present, informed Sadeque.

The legendary player also informed that the meeting discussed naming either a gallery or the conference room at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium after late Khaza Rahmatullah. The BHF may even introduce a hockey tournament after the former general secretary, Sadeque added.

He also informed that Bangladesh were offered hosting the Asian Challenge Cup in November-December with participation of the top six Asian nations including the hosts, but the meeting decided to decline the invitation due to financial constraints.

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