

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
Australia v India
First Test, Day 3
Live from 6:00am (Saturday)
TEN 2
New Zealand v Pakistan
Third Test, Day 5
Live from 12:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
FIH World Cup
Australia v China
Live from 5:30pm
Ireland v England
Live from 7:30pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Cricket League
Four-day match
Day Three

South Zone v North Zone
Time: 9:30am
Venue: ZACS, Chattogram

East Zone v Central Zone
Time: 9:30am
Venue: SCS, Bogura

Independence Cup
Arambagh v Saif SC
Time: 5:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

RIVER JOIN BOCA IN MADRID FOR FINAL

Argentinian giants River Plate landed in Madrid Thursday ahead of their long-anticipated Libertadores Cup decider against bitter rivals Boca Juniors. The first leg of the two-leg final -- the first to pit the Buenos Aires rivals against each other -- ended 2-2 at Boca's Bombonera ground last month. River were set to host the return at their El Monumental stadium on November 24 but it was postponed after River Plate fans attacked the Boca Juniors team bus. As punishment, South America's football federation CONMEBOL ruled that River would lose home advantage, and fears over further fan violence meant the game would be played outside Argentina. The second leg is scheduled to be held at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Sunday.

--AFP



SHORT CORNER

Joy for Bangladesh in Asian U-14 Tennis

Roman Hossain of Bangladesh became boy's singles champion in the Asian U-14 Tennis Series after beating compatriot Mahadi Hasan Alve 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 in the final at the National Tennis Complex Ramna yesterday. Roman however lost to Mahadi in the boy's doubles as Mahadi's pairing with Zubaid Utsho handed a 6-4, 6-1 defeat to Roman and Forhad Islam pair in the final.

In the girls' singles, Sri Lankan Saajida Razick beat Indian Khushali Modi 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 to clinch the title while Saajida paired with Bangladeshi Mashfia Afrin beat Indian pair Khushali Modi and Zainab Patel 6-1 and 6-0 in girls' doubles. 25 players including nine girls from India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh took part in the event.

--SPORTS REPORTER

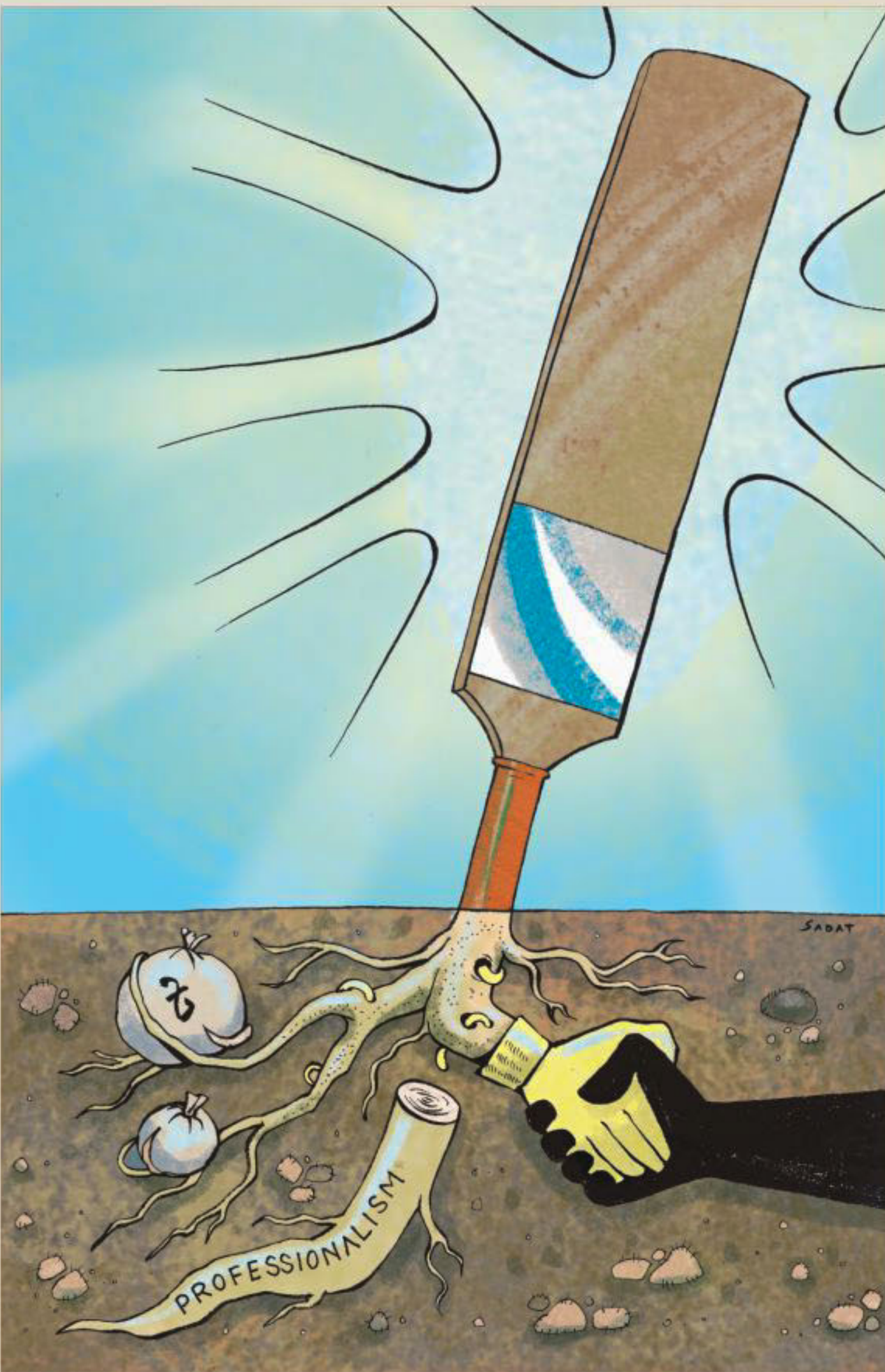
Pavard keeps mum amid rumours

World Cup winner Benjamin Pavard said playing Champions League football remains the priority as he mulls leaving his beloved Germany or pushing through a move to Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich. Pavard's status skyrocketed in the summer when he scored a superb goal in a 4-3 last-16 win over Argentina that set France on their way to World Cup glory in Russia.

The 22-year-old defender has been at VfB Stuttgart since 2016 but seems unlikely to remain at the struggling side beyond this season, with a big-money move to Bayern among other "concrete offers" on the table.

"I haven't made promises to any clubs," Pavard told Sky Germany on Thursday.

--Afp



A DARKNESS WITHIN THE LIGHT

MAZHAR UDDIN

Bangladesh cricket is currently going through a phase where it seems like every day is bright and sunny, with all the glamour and attention on the national team and everyone in the country yearning to be a part of the Tigers' set-up.

In fact cricket has carved a place in nearly everyone's heart. It has become an integral source of joy and happiness when the Tigers are successful and in equal parts a source of anger when performances go awry.

Basically, it seems that Bangladesh cricket is going through a honeymoon phase where everything seems on track from the outside when taking into consideration the successes of the national team.

On the other hand, a cricketing nation cannot simply rely on the successes of its national team. It is important to have a strong and rich cricketing culture, with roots planted firmly at the domestic level.

However, despite all the glitz, glamour, money, name and fame that is associated with the national team, there is another part of the same fraternity that is in dire straits and silently crying for help.

Corruption, biased umpiring, match fixing and even buying and selling of points has become a common feature over the past few years in the first, second and third divisions of the Dhaka leagues.

It has escalated to such a state that it is an open secret among players, club officials and even board members -- who remain silent despite knowing everything, allowing the wrongdoings to spread like wildfire.

The lower levels of cricket in the country are often portrayed as a mockery by

players and officials and there is a famous saying among them which goes along the lines that cricket in Bangladesh is no more a gentleman's game if you notice what is happening in the Dhaka leagues.

There have even been outbursts by players on social media, where they have posted pictures and videos alleging favouritism during league matches and claiming that a few specific teams are getting illegal support.

Such things have happened in the past, but things now are worse than ever despite widespread coverage by media outlets.

Recently Bengali daily Prothom Alo featured a full-page investigative report over the current situation of the leagues in Dhaka,



revealing allegations against a few board directors who own the clubs that have been receiving favours from umpires, match referees, scorers and the league committee.

We may get to know all the views on such issues from national team stalwarts but when it comes to lower level cricketers speaking about such wrongdoings, they prefer to remain silent for the sake of their careers.

The Daily Star spoke to a cricketer -- who understandably requested anonymity -- who was a victim of such favouritism in the just-concluded First Division league.

According to the player, who is the sole breadwinner in his family, things were completely normal when he started his

Reds close in on City

Arsenal, MU share spoils in 4-goal thriller

AFP, London



Liverpool closed back to within two points of Premier League leaders Manchester City by coming from behind to beat Burnley 3-1 as Manchester United and Arsenal shared the spoils in a thrilling 2-2 draw at Old Trafford.

A huge error by £67 million (\$75 million) Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker led to Burnley's shock opener when Jack Cork bundled home after the Brazilian fumbled in the wet conditions.

However, the visitors quickly rallied to stretch their unbeaten start to the league season to 15 games.

James Milner levelled just after the hour mark and then turned provider for Firmino to turn the game around just three minutes after

coming on as a substitute before Xherdan Shaqiri sealed the three points late on.

Arsenal stretched their unbeaten run to 20 games, but failed to take advantage of two gifts from the hosts as United's winless run in the Premier League extended to four matches.

Amid an underperforming side this season, goalkeeper David de Gea has remained in almost impeccable form, but the Spaniard spilled Shkodran Mustafi's header over the line to hand Arsenal the lead 26 minutes in.

Four minutes later the hosts levelled when Anthony Martial turned home Ander Herrera's cross after Bernd Leno saved Marcos Rojo's cross.

Both second-half goals came in a crazy minute as firstly Rojo turned the ball off Alexandre Lacazette and into the United's net in his attempts to make a last-ditch tackle.



Manchester United midfielder Jesse Lingard (C) scores the second goal to make it 2-2 during a pulsating Premier League encounter against Arsenal at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Shahidul leads Central revival

SPORTS REPORTER



The second day of the third round of the Bangladesh Cricket League matches were full of enthralling contests between bat and ball at venues in Bogura and

Chattogram yesterday.

Pacer Shahidul Islam continued his good bowling with a second five-for at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogura and his efforts were well-supported by opener Pinak Ghosh and one-down Abdul Mazid as Central Zone bounced back strongly against East Zone after their first innings hiccup.

Shahidul, the 23-year old right-arm paceman from Narayanganj who took six wickets for 64 runs against North Zone in the second round at the same venue, produced impressive figures of 5 for 62 as East Zone were bundled out for 186 runs in reply to Central's first innings total of 118.

Central then finished the day on a happy note with a 71-run lead and eight wickets intact, reaching 139 for two in their second essay thanks to Pinak, who was unbeaten on 52 and Mazid, who scored a 77-ball 67 that contained nine boundaries.

At the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram, an unbeaten 126-run third-wicket partnership between Junaed Siddiqui (70 not out) and Naeem Islam (62 not out) helped North Zone finish the day on 136 for two after wrapping up South Zone's first innings for 329 runs. However, the first hour of the morning session was a frustrating one for North as South added 49 runs after resuming the day on 280 for nine.

Left-arm spinner Sunzamul Islam finally trapped Kamrul Islam in front to return with a five-wicket haul but it was Mahedi Hasan who helped South add the valuable runs during his unbeaten 90-ball 63 that saw eight boundaries.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CENTRAL ZONE v EAST ZONE

CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 118 and second 139 for 2 (Pinak 52 not out, Mazid 62)
EAST ZONE: 186 all out (Rony 18, Shamsur 26, Mahmudul 41, Mahidul 34, Farhad 27; Shahadat 2-67, Shahidul 5-62, Salaudhin 2-35)

SOUTH ZONE v NORTH ZONE

SOUTH ZONE: First innings 329 (Fazle 45, Tushar 62, Rakibul 79, Mahedi 63; Sunzamul 5-87)
NORTH ZONE: First innings 136 for 2 (Junaed 70 not out, Naeem 62 not out)



FASTEST TO 200 TEST WICKETS

BOWLER	NO. OF TESTS
Yasir Shah (Pakistan)	33*
Clarrie Grimmett (Australia)	36
Ravichandran Ashwin (India)	37
Dennis Lillee (Australia)	38
Waqar Younis (Pakistan)	38

Pakistani leg-spinner Yasir Shah became the fastest bowler to take 200 Test wickets when he dismissed nightwatchman Will Somerville during the fourth day of the third and final Test against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kane, Yasir share day's honours

AFP, Abu Dhabi



Record-breaking Yasir Shah had to share the day's honours with New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on Thursday as the third and final Test heads towards a gripping final day in Abu Dhabi.

The early part of the morning belonged to Yasir who collected the one wicket he needed to become the fastest man to reach 200 wickets in Test cricket.

The rest of the day, however, belonged to Williamson who played a masterly innings, and was 139 not out as the Kiwis reached 272-4 by the close that has given them a lead of 198 with six wickets remaining.

The day began in high anticipation with New Zealand resuming at 26-2 and Yasir

taking the ball to bowl the third over.

He needed just one wicket to break a record set 82 years ago by the great Australian leg-spinner Clarrie Grimmett who had needed 36 Tests to reach the milestone of 200 Test wickets.

When Yasir trapped nightwatchman Will Somerville leg before for four with his 13th delivery of the day, he reached the 200-wicket mark in just his 33rd Test.

"Ever since I knew this record it became my dream to take fastest 200 wickets and it came true today," said Yasir.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 274

PAKISTAN: First innings 348

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 272 for 4 (Williamson 139 not out, Taylor 22, Nicholls 90 not out; Shaheen 2-55, Yasir 2-107)

WALTON

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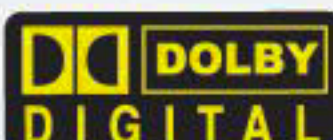
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