

## Jack won't smoke again

AFP, London

Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere has promised never to smoke again after being caught with a cigarette in public.

Wilshere was photographed smoking outside a London nightclub in the early hours of Thursday morning as he celebrated Arsenal's 2-0 win over Napoli in the Champions League.

Gunners manager Arsene Wenger was critical of Wilshere's behaviour, but still included the England star in his starting line-up for Sunday's 1-1 draw at West Bromwich Albion.

And Wilshere struck it lucky with a deflected equalising goal in the second half to give Arsenal the point which took them back to the top of the Premier League table.

Wilshere's strike was his first league goal in almost three years, but he conceded his decision to smoke was a mistake he won't make again.

"Players make mistakes," he told Arsenal Player on Monday. "I am not a smoker. I spoke with the boss and he asked me what happened."

"I explained to him and we sorted it out."

"He put me in the team and hopefully I repaid him."

"I am not a smoker so I think that will be my last (cigarette)."

## 10-man PSG prevail

REUTERS, Paris

Ten-man Paris St Germain moved level on points with Ligue 1 leaders Monaco when they snatched a 2-1 comeback win at arch-rivals Olympique Marseille on Sunday.

Thiago Motta was sent off after 31 minutes with Andre Ayew converted the resulting penalty but Maxwell and Zlatan Ibrahimovic struck either side of the interval to put PSG on 21 points after nine games.

Monaco, who beat St Etienne 2-1 on Saturday, lead on goal difference. Marseille slipped to fourth on 17 points.

Marseille went ahead when Motta's reckless foul on Matthieu Valbuena was converted by Ayew.

Adrien Rabiot was brought in for Ezequiel Lavezzi as Laurent Blanc looked to keep the balance in the midfield and PSG continued to enjoy possession despite being a man down.

Maxwell headed home the equaliser from Gregory van der Wiel's lofted cross on the stroke of half time.

# Juve win a thriller

AFP, Milan



Champions Juventus overcame conceding a first-minute goal at home to AC Milan to stun their bitter rivals 3-2 and move to within two points of Serie A leaders Roma on Sunday.

Title contenders Napoli had heaped the pressure on Juventus after a 4-0 rout of Livorno which moved Rafael Benitez's men up to second place in the table.

But after being stunned by Sulley Muntari's first-minute opener in Turin, Antonio Conte's men were soon level thanks to Andrea Pirlo's sublime free kick.

In a pulsating encounter played in torrential rain, Juve upped the pace after the interval when Sebastian Giovinco gave the hosts a 2-1 lead and Giorgio Chiellini added a third following the expulsion of Milan defender Phillip Mexes.

The shine was taken off a convincing win, however, when Muntari struck his second of the match and Juve escaped dropping two precious points when the Ghanaian saw a bullet header go just over at the death.

With Roma comfortably on top with 21 points from seven games, Napoli and Juventus are both two points adrift in second and third respectively.

Muntari, unmarked yards from



Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini is ecstatic after scoring against AC Milan during their Serie A encounter in Turin on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Gianluigi Buffon's back post, gave the hosts a perfect start when he sent a first-time effort past the 'keeper as the visitors worked the ball towards goal from kick-off.

But after Nigel De Jong fouled Carlos Tevez from behind on the quarter hour, Andrea Pirlo stepped up to whip a curling freekick past Christian Abbiati in the Milan goal after the 'keeper had got his hands to

the ball.

In a combative first half both sides had chances to score, although Juve arguably had the upper hand.

Tempers often frayed and Leonardo Bonucci was cautioned for a headbutt on Robinho that left the Brazilian bleeding and requiring treatment.

Later, Mexes lashed out at Chiellini after

some a scuffle in the box during a corner, the Frenchman receiving his first caution.

On the hour Ghanaian Kwadwo Asamoah fired just over at the second time of asking, while Paul Pogba's arrival for the second half saw the midfielder's silky skills causing Milan all sorts of problems.

Juve had the momentum but it took a slice of individual skill for the hosts to take the lead, substitute Sebastian Giovinco weaving his way around two defenders to beat Abbiati at his far post with a drive that went through the net.

Milan's hopes of levelling suffered a blow when Mexes saw red after a challenge on Giovinco which gave Juve a free kick 26 metres from goal.

Pirlo's superb free kick came off the woodwork and with Milan's defence at the races, and Abbiati stranded, Chiellini was quick to first-time the rebound into a virtually empty net.

In the dying seconds, however, Juve gave Muntari space and the Ghanaian unleashed a left-foot strike from the left of the area which took a slight deflection before beating Buffon in the Juventus goal.

Juve breathed a sigh of relief when Muntari's bullet header from a corner in injury time sailed just over Buffon's crossbar.

## Spurs fan arrested

AFP, London

A Tottenham fan was arrested after allegedly chanting the word "Yid" during his team's 3-0 defeat Sunday against West Ham at White Hart Lane, the Press Association said Monday.

Metropolitan Police had issued a pre-match warning to supporters of both teams that they could be arrested if they used the inflammatory word during the London derby.

However, that plea was largely ignored and one fan was held on suspicion of committing a section five public order offence at half-time in the stadium's East Stand.

It was revealed on Monday that the supporter was bailed until November when he will appear in court.

Police also confirmed that nine other arrests were made for other public order offences during and after the match.

Tottenham fans had sent a clear message of defiance to police by chanting "Yid Army" during the Premier League fixture.

## WC trophy coming on Dec 17

### Salahuddin seeks Coca Cola's investment

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin asked the officials of Coca Cola Far East Limited to come forward to invest in the youth development of Bangladesh football, while speaking at a press conference organised to announce the arrival of the FIFA World Cup trophy for the first time in Bangladesh on December 17.

"Coca Cola is associated with youth football development in many countries and since they want to reinvigorate football in Bangladesh by bringing the trophy ahead of the 2014 World Cup, they could sustain it by investing in BFF's youth football plans," said Salahuddin in a press the

conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Debashish Deb, the country manager of Coca Cola Far East Limited, said that even though they have not yet had the opportunity to give it a thought, the proposal is a good one and they would be willing to support BFF if they come up with a specific plan.

Debashish also confirmed that the trophy that will arrive in Bangladesh on December 17 and will leave on December 19 will be the real one and not a replica. The trophy started its tour on September 12 this year in front of the 'Christ the Redeemer' statue of Rio de Janeiro, and will travel to 50 countries including Bangladesh where the trophy had never appeared before, whereas before the 2010 edition the trophy travelled to a total of 84 countries.

"We would like to make sure as

many people get to see the trophy as possible. We want to showcase the trophy to a large audience, even if only the head of state and the captain of the national football team will be able to touch it," said Debashish.

Debashish however said that apart from the date of the trophy visit, the other details -- such as whether a former world football star will arrive with the trophy or whether the trophy will go round the country -- are yet to be finalised.

Mohiuddin Monem, the deputy country manager of Monem Group Ltd, the authorised distributors of Coca Cola in Bangladesh, and Abdur Rahman, the joint secretary of the ministry of Youth and Sports, were also present among others at the press conference.



Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin (3rd from R) unveils a FIFA ball during a press conference for announcing the arrival of the FIFA World Cup trophy in Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Italy recall Rossi

REUTERS



Giuseppe Rossi returned to the Italy squad on Sunday for the first time since the injury nightmare which cost him two years of his career while Mario Balotelli avoided being dropped despite a ban for bad behaviour.

US born forward Rossi was included in the squad, published on the Italian Football Federation website, for the World Cup qualifiers away to Denmark on Oct. 11 and at home to Armenia four days later.

He is set to make his first appearance since playing against Serbia two years ago.

Rossi's troubles began when he suffered an anterior cruciate ligament injury to his right knee while playing for Villarreal in a Spanish league match against Real Madrid in October 2011.

He fought desperately to be fit again in

time for Euro 2012 only to re-injure the knee in training two months before the tournament.

### SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Federico Marchetti (Lazio), Salvatore Sirigu (Paris St Germain)

**Defenders:** Ignazio Abate (AC Milan), Davide Astori (Cagliari), Federico Balzaretti (AS Roma), Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus), Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus), Lorenzo De Silvestri (Sampdoria), Manuel Pasqual (Fiorentina), Andrea Ranocchia (Inter Milan)

**Midfielders:** Alberto Aquilani (Fiorentina), Antonio Candreva (Lazio), Daniele De Rossi (Roma), Alessandro Diamanti (Bologna), Alessandro Florenzi (Roma), Emanuele Giaccherini (Sunderland), Claudio Marchisio (Juventus), Riccardo Montolivo (Milan), Thiago Motta (Paris St Germain), Andrea Pirlo (Juventus), Andrea Poli (AC Milan), Marco Verratti (Paris St Germain).

**Forwards:** Mario Balotelli (AC Milan), Alessio Cerci (Torino), Alberto Gilardino (Bologna), Lorenzo Insigne (Napoli), Pablo Daniel Osvaldo (Southampton), Giuseppe Rossi (Fiorentina)

## Thakurgaon thru' to final

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Pourasava moved into the final of the DC Gold Cup football tournament after beating Horipur Upazila Krira Shangstha 2-1 in the second semifinal at the Shaheed Mohammad Ali Stadium here yesterday.

Nigerian Samsi and Tipu struck one goal apiece for the winners while Liton pulled one goal back for the losers.

Thakurgaon Pourasava will now play Wednesday's final against Baliadangi Upazilla Krira Shangstha, who on Sunday defeated Pirganj Upazilla Krira Shangstha 3-1 in the first semifinal.

## AFC U-19 QUALIFIERS BD face Iraq today

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Under-19 national football team will be hoping to secure at least one point when they face last edition's runners-up Iraq in one of the two opening matches of the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers at the F Hariri Stadium in Iraq today.

Bangladesh, who have kept their sight on the 16-team final round by finishing top in Group C or emerging as one of the six best runners-up among the nine groups, will however have to face a tough challenge against Iraq who will be playing on their home ground and who have a good record against Bangladesh.

Under the supervision of Macedonian coach Nikola Illievski, Bangladesh suffered a humiliating 0-6 defeat at the hand of former champions Iraq in the 2011 qualifiers in Dhaka.

Before leaving for Iraq, head coach Rene Koster had vowed to become champions in the group which consisted of Iraq, Kuwait and Pakistan but the Dutch coach did not mention his intention to become group champions at the official press conference in Iraq yesterday, emphasising on the development of the squad rather than on results.

## Fitting farewell to Tendulkar

CNN-IBN, New Delhi



Mumbai Indians gave their icon player Sachin Tendulkar the perfect farewell on Sunday by putting the 2013 Champions League Twenty20 trophy in the batting legend's lap, but the Mumbaiaiker says "something will come along" before the next IPL season that will keep him in the MI dugout.

"As of now, I don't know [about my future association with MI]. We've just won this tournament and I want to enjoy this moment," Tendulkar told the official CLT20 website. "There are still good six months [before next IPL] and I am sure something will come along till then ... I have been part of MI for six years now and it has been an experience I have really enjoyed," he added.

It was twin delight for the Mumbai franchise that completed a double after having won their maiden IPL trophy earlier in May this year. The 33-run win over Rajasthan Royals in the final on Sunday gave MI their second CLT20 trophy. They had also won the tournament in 2011.

**Tournament organized by Bangladesh Professional Golfer's Association**

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