

Maasranga TV  
Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
Second ODI (D/N)  
Live from 1:00pm  
TEN Cricket  
South Africa v Australia

Bangladesh v Sri Lanka  
Second ODI D/N, Time:

Second Test, Day 1  
Live from 2:30pm  
STAR Sports 4  
Winter Olympic Games  
Day 13  
Live from 3:30pm

1:00pm Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Nat'l Cricket League  
(Four-Day Match, Day 1)

TEN Action  
UEFA Europa League  
FC Dnipro v Tottenham  
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

Sylhet v Khulna  
Venue: Sylhet

TEN Sports  
UEFA Europa League  
Swansea v Napoli  
Live from 12:00am (Friday)  
FC Porto v Frankfurt  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

Dhaka v Rajshahi  
Venue: BKSP-4, Dhaka

Metro v Rangpur  
Venue: Bogra Barisal v

TEN Sports  
UEFA Europa League  
Ajax v Red Bull Salzburg  
Live from 2:00am (Friday)

Chittagong  
Venue: Chittagong

# Barca take control

AFP, Manchester

Goals by Lionel Messi and Dani Alves saw Barcelona take control of their Champions League last 16 tie against Manchester City with a 2-0 win in Tuesday's first leg.

Knockout-phase debutants City matched Barcelona in the first half at the Etihad Stadium, but the game changed early in the second period when Martin Demichelis was sent off following a last-man foul on Messi.

The Argentine scored from the ensuing penalty in the 54th minute, taking his tally of goals in this season's competition to seven.

Despite being a man down, City continued to threaten, but in the final minute Alves ran through to score, leaving Barcelona firmly in the driving seat ahead of the return leg on March 12.

While Neymar started on the bench for Barcelona after his recent return from injury, City manager Manuel Pellegrini deployed a pragmatic 4-4-1-

1 formation, with Alvaro Negredo playing as a lone striker.

Both managers had emphasised the importance of possession before the game and in that domain the visitors quickly stamped their authority, immediately trading passes with their usual hypnotic fluidity.

There was no penetration to their passing, however, and when City began to probe, they found fissures in the Barca defence.

A pass from David Silva freed Negredo, who eluded Gerard Pique before lifting the ball over Victor Valdes from a tight angle, but there were no City players up in support.

Barca goalkeeper Valdes was then given a moment of discomfort when Vincent Kompany got his head to a free-kick from Silva, sparking a goalmouth scramble that was cut short when Negredo was penalised for an infringement.

Negredo hit a snapshot straight at Valdes, before Barca came to life, with Messi firing over from the edge of the

box and Xavi extending City goalkeeper Joe Hart with a rasping 25-yard drive.

It was an encouraging first half for the home side, but eight minutes into the second period the balance of the tie suddenly shifted in Barcelona's favour.

Andres Iniesta's pass put Messi through on goal and Demichelis, sliding in from behind, brought the Argentine down.

The offence occurred right on the edge of the box, but referee Jonas Eriksson awarded a penalty and after Demichelis had trudged off, Messi planted the spot-kick past Hart.

Pellegrini sent on Joleon Lescott and Samir Nasri in place of Aleksandar Kolarov and Jesus Navas, and Nasri quickly had a sight of goal, only for Pique to block.

Instead, the hosts continued to push, with Valdes plunging to his right to repel a volley from Silva in the 77th minute.

Barca had the final say, however, with Alves gathering a pass from Neymar and tucking the ball between Hart's legs in the final minute to further tighten the Catalans' grip on the tie.



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi scores the opening goal from a penalty during their Champions League last 16 tie against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pellegrini blasts ref

REUTERS, Manchester

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini questioned the impartiality of referee Jonas Eriksson and accused the Swede of deciding the outcome of their 2-0 Champions League defeat by Barcelona on Tuesday.

City fell behind in their last-16 first-leg clash when Eriksson awarded a penalty to the visitors in the 53rd minute for a foul by Martin Demichelis on fellow Argentine Lionel Messi that appeared to take place outside the area.

To compound the punishment, Demichelis was sent off, leaving City to play the rest of the match down to 10-men, with Messi firing home from the spot and Dani Alves adding a second goal in stoppage time.

Chilean Pellegrini, who normally keeps his own counsel, was highly critical of the Swedish official, who has held a FIFA badge for 12 years and has now refereed 22 Champions League and 87 UEFA matches in total.

Pellegrini, who risks a severe sanction from European soccer's governing body, told a news conference: "I spoke to him (Eriksson) at the end and told him he should be very happy because he decided the match."

"Barcelona had no chance to score until the penalty against Demichelis."

"The referee was not impartial. He did not have any control of the game. I think it was not a good idea to have a referee from Sweden in such an important match."

"He did not call for a foul on (Jesus) Navas before the penalty. The foul was made outside the box."

## PSG rout Leverkusen

AFP, Leverkusen

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice to leave Paris Saint-Germain on course for the Champions League quarterfinals after their 4-0 win at ten-man Bayer Leverkusen in Tuesday's last 16, first-leg clash.

Leverkusen, second only to Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga, suffered their third straight home defeat as Laurent Blanc's PSG were rarely troubled at the BayArena with Ibrahimovic the architect of the victory with two goals in three first-half minutes.

Left winger Blaise Matuidi put PSG ahead with barely two minutes gone before Ibrahimovic netted a penalty, then added a second when he unleashed a thunderbolt of a shot to make it 3-0 at the break.

Replacement Yohan Cabaye then added PSG's fourth just before the final whistle.

It meant 32-year-old Ibrahimovic replaced Cristiano Ronaldo as the competition's top-scorer with 10

goals in six Champions League games this season after the Swedish star also netted four in the 5-0 rout of RSC Anderlecht in Belgium last October.

Bayer were reduced to ten men when Ibrahimovic's marker Emir Spahic was sent off for a second yellow, and the subsequent red, for the final half an hour.

Sami Hyypia-coached Leverkusen now face an unenviable task to try and salvage something from the return leg in Paris on March 12.

The French league leaders took an almost immediate lead when Leverkusen captain Simon Rolfes lost possession in midfield. Matuidi fed Ibrahimovic out the flank and the Swedish striker's pass found Marco Verratti in space.

The Italian right winger put a superbly timed ball in behind the Leverkusen defence which Matuidi slotted home.

It could have 2-0 after ten minutes as Ibrahimovic's shot cannoned off Roberto Hilbert's torso, with the right-back the last defence with the hosts' back four in disarray.

Having lost their last two home games, Leverkusen started to find their rhythm after the initial setback with striker Stefan Kiessling heading over from a free-kick on 19 minutes during a rare forage into the PSG half.

With just over 60 per cent possession, it seemed only a matter of time before PSG added a second and Ibrahimovic struck with two goals in three minutes.

The first came when referee Viktor Kassai spotted Spahic pulling down Ibrahimovic in the area, booked the defender and awarded the spot-kick, despite furious protests from the Bayer defence.

Ibrahimovic slotted the penalty on 39 minutes and then gave the guests a commanding lead with a fantastic shot from just outside the area.

Matuidi found Ibrahimovic on the edge of the box and the Swedish star rifled a spectacular first time shot into the top right corner.

The hosts fortunes did not improve as Spahic was booked again for holding back right-wing Lucas and sent off on 59 minutes.

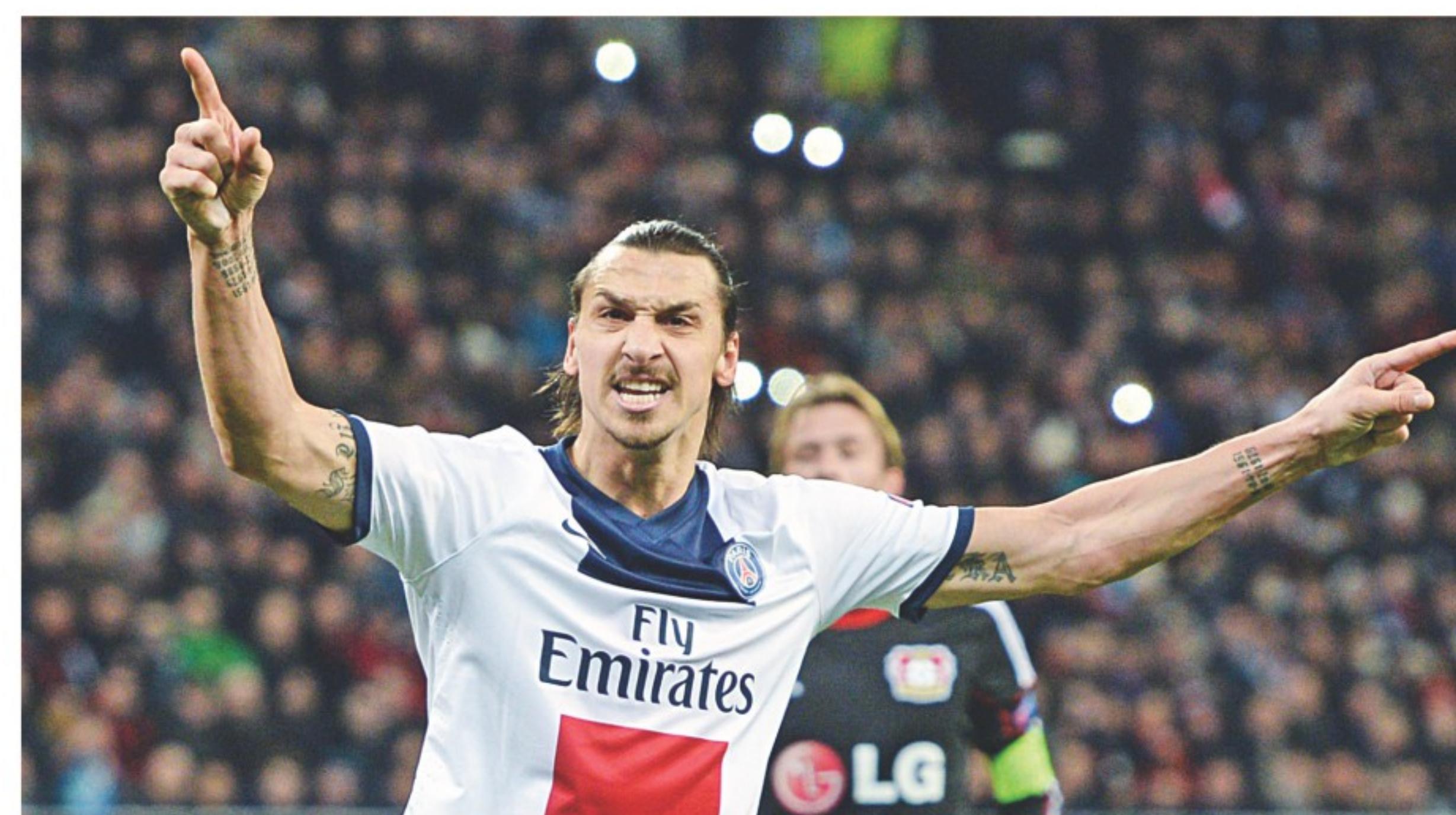


PHOTO: AFP

Paris Saint Germain star Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates one of his two goals against Bayer Leverkusen during their Champions League round of 16 match at the Bay Arena on Tuesday.

## Curitiba gets reprieve

AFP, Florianopolis



FIFA WORLD CUP  
Brasil 2014

FIFA handed a World Cup reprieve to the Brazilian city of Curitiba on Tuesday, barely one month after threatening to axe it from the event over construction work delays.

FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke said the decision to retain the city as a venue came after sharp progress on building at the 41,000-seater Arena da Baixada.

The venue, which is to host four first round matches including Spain's clash with Australia on June 23, had previously missed a series of deadlines set by FIFA.

"Yes, Curitiba will remain as one of the 12 host cities," Valcke told a news conference.

"It is a race against a very tight timeline and will require regular monitoring."

Any axing of Curitiba would have dealt a humiliating blow to Brazil, where the multi-billion-dollar costs of staging the World Cup and the 2016 Rio Olympics are deeply unpopular.

Brazil's preparations for the showpiece tournament have also been marred by a series of fatal accidents at three venues which left six construction workers dead.

## Rousseff to invite Pope to WC

AFP, Brasilia

Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff said Tuesday that she plans to invite Pope Francis, an avid football fan, to attend the World Cup tournament that gets underway in June.

"I'm going to invite him to the World Cup," said Rousseff on the eve of her visit to Rome, where she is due to meet with the pontiff.

The football-besotted pope, 77, who is a native of neighbouring Argentina, is still a member of the San Lorenzo club he used to watch as a child with his father.

Prior to becoming pope last year, Francis was Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

The World Cup kicks off on June 12 in Sao Paulo.

## Second Test from today Smith not overawed by Johnson

AFP, Port Elizabeth



South Africa captain Graeme Smith on Wednesday played down the "hype" around Australia fast bowler Mitchell Johnson ahead of the second Test which starts at St George's Park on Thursday.

Johnson destroyed South Africa's batting in the first Test at Centurion with match figures of 12 for 127, spearheading Australia to a 281-run win.

"It's important not to get caught up in the hype," said Smith. "Obviously Mitchell bowled extremely well and bowled aggressively."

"We all know that creates headlines, stories and fanfare. There's huge respect in our team for someone who is performing well but it's important for us to focus on getting our skills right."

Smith said there had been no special attention paid to Johnson either by the team

or himself personally.

Smith faced four balls from Johnson in the first Test and was dismissed twice.

"I've faced Mitchell a lot of times -- times where he's had the better of me and times where I have had the better of him. The wicket at Centurion with the new ball and the cracks played a really important role."

"We've had a general group discussion on areas that we want to improve. We haven't watched any more video or anything different than we did before the first Test."

"I can watch videotapes of me scoring hundreds against Mitchell Johnson. Every player here has had success against this attack, not so long ago."

The South Africa captain said his team had prepared well as they set out to reverse crushing defeat in the first Test.

"I believe our mindsets and our game plans are good. Ultimately it's about walking the walk now and going out over the next five days and being able to produce the performances to show that," he said.



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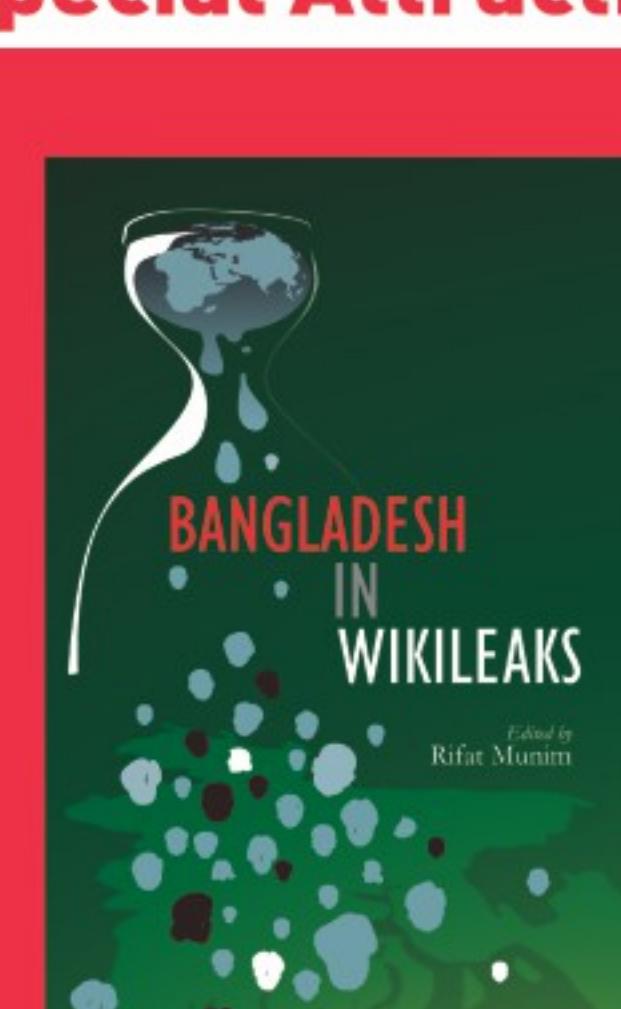
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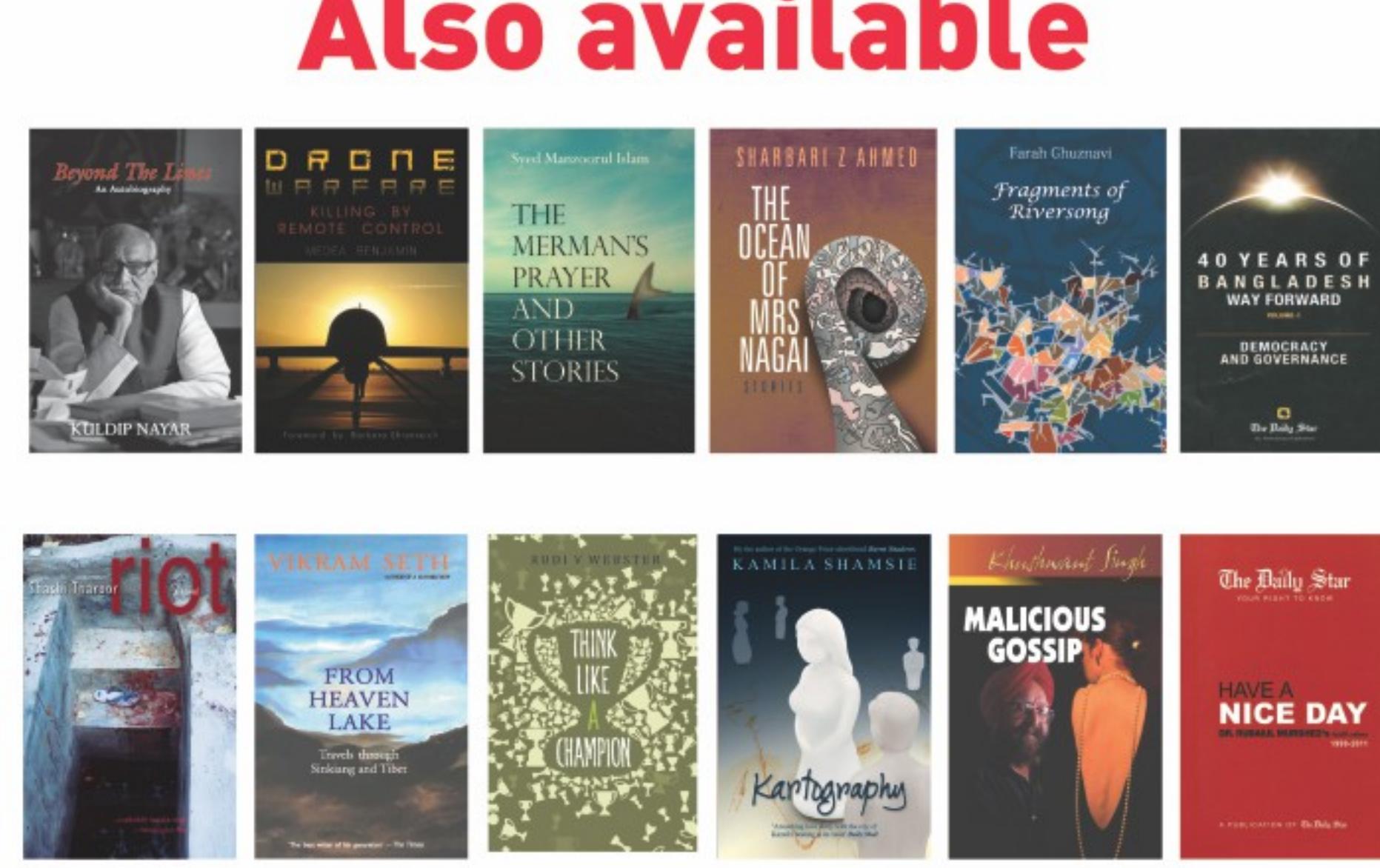
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