

TEN SPORTS

US Open

Second Rd, Day 4

Live from 9:00pm

Life's Good

lgmobilebangladesh

01770433071

MRP

BDT 39,990

# MU humiliated by MK Dons

REUTERS, London



Manchester United's early season problems were compounded by a humiliating 4-0 loss to third-tier Milton Keynes Dons in the League Cup second round on Tuesday leaving new manager Louis van Gaal still looking for his first win.

MK Dons' Will Grigg and substitute Benik Afobe scored two goals apiece as United's defensive frailties were ruthlessly exposed by their enthusiastic lower division opponents who took advantage of playing against a second-string side.

Grigg capitalised on United's mistakes to score either side of halftime before Afobe compounded the visitors' misery with two late goals, the first seconds after coming off the bench.

It was United's first outing in the second round of the competition since 1995 and the first time they had conceded four goals in a League Cup match against lower league opposition.

Following Manchester United's 2-1 Premier League defeat by Swansea City, their first opening day loss at home since 1972, and a toothless 1-1 draw at Sunderland, they should have welcomed a seemingly straightforward game at lowly opponents.

After a bright start, though, they found themselves behind.

Jonny Evans gifted the hosts possession in his own penalty area and Grigg punished him with a cool finish after 25 minutes.

Just after the hour mark the hosts doubled their lead and again United were the masters of their own downfall.

Another misplaced pass was capitalised on by Ben Reeves whose cross was steered home by Grigg's audacious chested finish.



Third-tier team MK Dons' striker Benik Afobe (2nd from R) celebrates scoring the fourth goal with teammates during their League Cup second round match against Manchester United in Milton Keynes on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Barca sign Douglas

AFP, Madrid

La Liga giants Barcelona have completed the signing of Brazilian full back Douglas Pereira from Sao Paulo for an initial fee of four million euros (\$5.2 million, £3.2 million), the club confirmed on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old will sign a five-year deal and is expected to compete with compatriot Dani Alves for a place in the first team.

The deal could rise to 5.5 million euros subject to the number of appearances he makes for the Catalans.

"FC Barcelona and Sao Paulo FC have reached an agreement for the transfer of Douglas Pereira," said a statement on the Barca website.

"The cost of the transfer is four million euros plus 1.5 million euros in variables depending on the number of games played.

"Douglas will travel to Barcelona at the end of this week to do his medical, sign his contract and be presented as a Barcelona player."

## Eto'o thanks Mourinho

AFP, London

Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o said on Wednesday that there was no bad blood between him and Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho after completing his move to Everton.

The 33-year-old scored 12 goals for Chelsea last season, but his relationship with Mourinho came under scrutiny after the Portuguese was caught on camera apparently casting doubt on Eto'o's age.

At the time, Eto'o reacted by branding Mourinho a "fool", but after signing for Everton on a two-year contract, he said that he was happy to put the affair behind him.

"The only thing I have to say vis-a-vis Jose Mourinho is to thank him," said Eto'o during his presentation to the media as an Everton player.

"It is down to Jose Mourinho that I had the opportunity to be accepted and integrated into the Premier League, to play some great matches. That is the end of the discussion."

Eto'o was released by Chelsea at the end of last season and by coincidence, he could make his Everton debut against his former club, who visit Goodison Park in the Premier League on Saturday.

## Spurs snap up Dawson

AFP, London

Hull City announced on Tuesday that they have signed English centre-back Michael Dawson from Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur for an undisclosed fee.

Dawson, 30, has signed a three-year contract at the KC Stadium, having decided to end a nine-year association with Tottenham that saw him appointed club captain in 2012.

"I have been here for almost a decade and have loved every minute of it," Dawson said on Tottenham's official Twitter feed.

"I would like to say thank you to everyone at the club, including the supporters. We have enjoyed some incredible moments together and I hope the club continues to move forward in the future."

Dawson, who has won four England caps, is the sixth new player to join Hull during the close season after Tom Ince, Jake Livermore, Robert Snodgrass, Andrew Robertson and Harry Maguire.

# 'Di Maria is world class'

AFP, London



Manchester United announced on Tuesday that they have signed Argentina winger Angel di Maria from Real Madrid for a British-record transfer fee of £59.7 million (\$98 million, 75 million euros).

The 26-year-old's move, on a five-year contract, shatters the previous British-record fee of £50 million paid by Chelsea to sign Spain striker Fernando Torres from Liverpool in 2011.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce that Angel di Maria has completed his transfer for a British-record fee of £59.7 million. Angel joins on a five-year contract," said a club statement.

United manager Louis van Gaal said: "Angel is a world-class midfielder, but most importantly he is a team player. There is no doubting his immense natural talent.

"He is a tremendously fast and incisive left-footed player who puts fear into the most accomplished defence. His dribbling skills and his ability to take on and beat opponents are a joy to watch. He is an excellent addition to the team."

Di Maria said it was Van Gaal's "vision" for the English giants that had persuaded him to move to Old Trafford, even though United are not playing in Europe after their seventh-place finish in last term's Premier League.

"I am absolutely delighted to be joining Manchester United," Di Maria said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Spain and there were a lot of clubs interested in me, but United is the only club that I would have left Real Madrid for."

Di Maria could make his debut at Burnley on Saturday as Van Gaal looks to revitalise a United team still without a win after the first two games of the new Premier League campaign.

## Odds on van Gaal leaving slashed

REUTERS, London

British bookmakers reacted to Manchester United's humiliating 4-0 defeat by MK Dons in the Capital One Cup by slashing the odds on manager Louis van Gaal leaving the club.

William Hill, who had been offering 66-1 against the Dutchman becoming the next Premier League manager to go, cut those odds to 12-1 on Wednesday.

Corals, meanwhile, are offering 6-1 against him leaving by the end of his first season in England after United lost for the second time in three matches since he took over with the other match ending in a draw.

"The odds suggest that Man Utd will win nothing and the owners might just cut their losses and rebuild again," said William Hill spokesman Rupert Adams.

Meanwhile, former Crystal Palace manager Neil Warnock was installed as odds-on favourite to return to the club, which he left in 2010.

# Alonso calls time on Spain

AFP, Madrid



Real Madrid midfielder Xabi Alonso has announced his retirement from international football.

"I want to announce that my time with the Spanish national team has come to an end," he said in a statement.

"The hardest thing is knowing when to say goodbye, and after thinking about it, I think that my time with the national team has come to an end."

The 32-year-old was a key member of the Spanish sides that have won the past two European Championships in 2008 and 2012, as well as their first World Cup in 2010.

"It has been a glorious period with the Spanish team that started more than 11 years ago.

"I have formed part of an historical generation that has fulfilled the dreams of millions of fans, achieving something as unique as winning a World Cup and two European Championships in a row."

However, Alonso's final international



tournament ended in huge disappointment as the holders crashed out of the World Cup in Brazil after just two games following defeats to the Netherlands and Chile in the group stage.

Alonso scored 16 goals in 114 international appearances and joins Xavi Hernandez in announcing his international retirement, heralding the end of an era for Spanish football.

"It is very difficult to improve on what he has done," added Spain coach Vicente del Bosque.

"He leaves a fantastic legacy along with his teammates. He has been a great professional."

Del Bosque will announce his squad for next months' friendly away to France and Spain's first Euro 2016 qualifier against Macedonia on Friday.

Alonso's retirement means that Spain have now lost two of the principal protagonists in their unprecedented period of dominance, with Barcelona playmaker Xavi having announced his retirement from international football shortly earlier this summer.

# Angel didn't ask to leave

AFP, Madrid



Argentine midfielder Angel di Maria has claimed he never asked to leave Real Madrid after sealing his British transfer record £59.7 million (\$98 million, 75 million euros) move to Manchester United.

Real boss Carlo Ancelotti had repeatedly stated over the past week that Di Maria had demanded an exit from the Spanish capital.

The 26-year-old denied those suggestions, but did hint that the reason behind his departure had been the club's failure to give him an improved contract after his man-of-the-match performance as Real won their 10th European Cup against Atletico Madrid in May.

"Unfortunately, today I have to leave, but I want to make it clear that was never my wish," Di Maria said in an open letter to Madrid sports daily Marca.

"After winning the 10th European Cup, I went to the World Cup with the hope of receiving a gesture from the board.

"They talked about many things and many lies. They always wanted to place the initiative on me for leaving the club, but it was not like this.

"Unfortunately I am not to the footballing tastes of some people. The only thing that I asked for is something that would be fair.

"There are many things I value which have nothing to do with my salary.

"I hope to find those at Manchester United, one of the biggest clubs in the world, and hopefully I can make history."

Di Maria is believed to have become increasingly frustrated when Real president Florentino Perez also splashed out over 100 million euros on World Cup stars James Rodriguez and Toni Kroos, pushing him down the pecking order at the Bernabeu.

Naiyareen Fareeza Mayeen

Sunbeams School, Dhaka

অভিনন্দন

দ্বিতীয় ফাটনালিস্ট

Saif Rahman

Regent College

Chowdhury Nabila Tasnim

European Standard School

Lamia Mahzabin

Feni Girls' Cadet College

Dhrubo Saha

Scholastica

Season 3

চলছে Spelling Bee Season 3

সেমিফাইনাল পর্বের প্রতিযোগিতা

দেখতে চোখ রাখুন আজ বৃহস্পতিবার

সন্ধ্যা ৭:৫০ মিনিটে

-এ

Title Sponsor

The Daily Star

Powered by

Horlicks

Brought to you by

Champs21

Telecast Partner

Channel 9

Associate Partner

BSRM

Associate Partner

MetLife Alico

Associate Partner

FABER-CASTELL