

DAY'S EVENT

NATIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE

(Four-Day Match, Day-3)

Khulna v Chittagong

Venue: BKSP 3

Rangpur v Dhaka Metro

Venue: BKSP 2

Sylhet v Barisal

Venue: SBNCs

Dhaka v Rajshahi

Venue: KSOAS

Time: 10:00am

Time: 6:15pm

Venue: BNS

£350 MILLION BUS STAND

It has come to light that the 2014 World Cup's most expensive stadium, the Estadio Mane Garrincha in Brasilia, is currently being used as a bus depot. The 72,000-seater stadium cost £350 million to build, making it the second most expensive football stadium of all time (behind Wembley). However, there is no top-flight football club in Brazil's capital and the local sides using it have garnered 10,000 spectators -- meaning the stadium is running at a massive loss. The bus depot is being used so that losses can be reduced.

—INTERNET



AFC U-23 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS Camp starts at BNS

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh under-23 national football team started their training camp for the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers, scheduled to be held from March 27 to 31 in Dhaka, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

A total of 35 players out of 37 called up reported to coach Saiful Bari Titu as Jamal Dhanmondi Club's defenders Yeasin Khan and Kesto Kumar didn't join the camp on the opening day.

Yeasin is believed to have a family issue while Kesto is reportedly suffering from chicken pox.

Among those who joined, midfielder Hemanta Vincent Biswas is still recovering from the hamstring injury he sustained in the warm-up prior to the final match of the Bangabandhu Cup on January 29.

Titu informed that Vincent would need further 10 to 12 days to recover from the injury as the injury was aggravated during a practice session with Sheikh Russell Kriya Chaka during the Federation Cup.

Meanwhile, Lodewijk De Kruif is expected to take charge of the camp on Thursday. Bangladesh Football Federation's general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag informed that de Kruif will fly from Netherlands on Wednesday and would arrive here on Thursday and would immediately take charge of the team.



Injured Hemanta Vincent Biswas (L) shares a breather with teammates Sohail Rana (C) and Toklish Ahmed during the first practice session of the U-23 national football team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Amateur golf championship inaugurated

SPORTS REPORTER

The 30th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship was officially inaugurated at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday.

A total of 185 amateur golfers, including 148 from Bangladesh and 37 from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand are taking part in the four-day event, which will tee off today.

Sponsored by the Runner Group, the event is being organised jointly by Bangladesh Golf Federation and Kurmitola Golf Club.

Bahrain and Brunei back Prince Ali

REUTERS

Bahrain and Brunei have thrown their support behind a bid by Jordan's Prince Ali bin al-Hussein to oust incumbent Sepp Blatter as president of world soccer's ruling body FIFA.

The Jordanian news agency Petra reported on Tuesday that Bahrain's King Hamad and Brunei's Prince Sufri had met Prince Ali, the FIFA vice-president for Asia, in Manama to discuss the May vote.

It said both men had assured Prince Ali of their countries' support.

Four candidates are standing for the top job in world soccer at the May 29 election.

A Bangladesh

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which is 124 kilometres away, by road today with a mood that they have nothing to lose against the Kiwis, rather can achieve many things before their quarterfinal match on March 19.

Having already achieved what they wanted by reaching the last eight stage of the mega event, the Tigers can now dream bigger.

Welbeck stabs MU

REUTERS, Manchester



Discarded striker Danny Welbeck returned to demolish Manchester United's hopes of silverware by netting the winner in Arsenal's 2-1 FA Cup quarterfinal victory at Old Trafford on Monday.

England international Welbeck, who joined the Londoners in September after his United career stalled, pounced on a horrendous back pass by Antonio Valencia in the 61st minute to send the holders through.

In a rip-roaring first half Nacho Monreal's cool finish put Arsenal ahead in the 26th minute but Wayne Rooney's diving header evened it up three minutes later.

United, who will now ponder a second consecutive season without a trophy in the wake of manager Alex Ferguson's retirement, ended the match with 10 men after Angel Di Maria was red-carded for grabbing the referee's shirt just seconds after being booked for diving.

Welbeck had managed only two goals for Arsenal since October and was not having much joy on his first return to Old Trafford since his 16 million pounds (24.20 million) switch.

But he produced the game's decisive

moment with a helping hand from United's bungling defence.

There seemed little danger as a high ball was pumped forward but Phil Jones elected to chest the ball to Valencia who wafled a weak pass in the direction of keeper David De Gea.

It never stood a chance and Welbeck clipped the ball round the Spaniard and rolled it into an empty net.

"We had to start without apprehension and play at a high pace and we did that well," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who admitted in the build-up that he was still haunted by a 1999 FA Cup semifinal defeat by United.

"Danny Welbeck, I believe is just happy to score. He worked extremely hard today and deserved his goal."

It was Arsenal's first FA Cup win over United since the 2005 final and their first in any competition since May 2011.

With a Wembley semifinal against second tier Reading or third tier Bradford City to come next month, Arsenal are favourites to retain the trophy and claim a record 12th FA Cup.

Liverpool will have other ideas, although they must win a replay against Blackburn Rovers to book a semifinal spot against Premier League rivals Aston Villa.

Make or break for Bayern

REUTERS, Berlin



Bayern Munich go into their Champions League last-16 second leg at home to Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday knowing the game will make or break their season.

Bayern are runaway Bundesliga leaders and also reached the German Cup quarterfinals last week, but anything short of lifting Europe's biggest club crown will be considered a failure for Germany's wealthiest team.

"This match is a final for us," coach Pep Guardiola told reporters after Bayern's 3-1 win at Hanover 96 in the league on Saturday. "Only one thing matters and that is to win."

"We know what we have to do. They (Shakhtar) have extremely quick forwards and we cannot allow them to make their runs," said the Spaniard.

Bayern, five-time European champions, need to win to advance over 90 minutes, with a score draw sending the

Ukrainians through after their goalless first leg last month.

The Bavarians are still odds-on favourites to progress, having won all their previous home games in the group stage this season without conceding a goal.

Bayern's domestic form has been equally impressive, having scored an eye-popping 21 goals in their last four league games.

"Against many opponents it is us who are the favourites and that is justified," said captain Philipp Lahm, who will miss the game after breaking his ankle late last year.

"So it is also up to us and our own performances to make sure we can count ourselves among the top teams or not," he told Kicker magazine. "Bayern have to advance because we want to belong to Europe's elite."

Guardiola will be without the experienced Xabi Alonso, who is suspended after his red card in the first leg, but he could have defender Medhi

Benatia, back from injury, in the squad.

The odds are stacked against Shakhtar, whose season only started at the end of last month, said coach Mircea Lucescu.

"We will be playing against a very strong club. In my opinion Bayern are the world's strongest football team at the moment," the Romanian said.

"We have to respond to their extraordinary tactical discipline with equally strong tactical discipline."

He said the Ukrainians were at a disadvantage with their league only just underway.

"They have an advantage on us on that matter. Their team is also superior to ours, but football does not follow logical rules. In football, anything can happen," he said.

Defensive midfielder Taras Stepanenko is back following suspension for Shakhtar who are unbeaten in seven straight games in all competitions.

Araf makes his mark

SPORTS REPORTER

British Bangladeshi professional golfer Araf Shadd has finished in joint 26th position in the Allegria Open in Egypt this week.

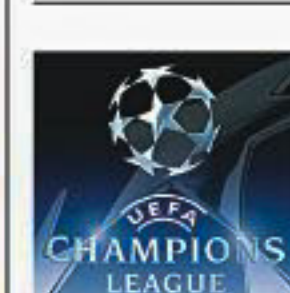
A total of 140 professionals and 15 top amateurs including some notable names from world amateur ranking and European tour took part in the event.

The tournament, hosted by PGA Tour Mediterranean and Egypt Ministry of Tourism and Sports, proved to be tough for the players, where six-time European Tour winner Paul Broadhurst finished six-over-par.

Only four players in the whole week were able to shoot under-par scores, Araf being one of them. Araf shot a final round of one-under-par, which included four birdies and three bogeys in tough conditions to secure the 26th position.

Chelsea buzzing

REUTERS, London



Chelsea are brimming with confidence and, fortified by a seven-day break, go into Wednesday's Champions League last-16 return match as favourites to knock Paris St Germain out for the second season in a row.

Defender Gary Cahill says "there's a great buzz" around Stamford Bridge after the Londoners followed their 2-0 League Cup final victory over Tottenham Hotspur on March 1 by winning 1-0 at West Ham United in the Premier League three days later.

Treble-chasing Chelsea, who are five points clear at the top of the Premier League, have not played since their Upton Park triumph and, according to Cahill, the Wembley win over Spurs has lifted the squad's self-belief to new heights.

"The Cup final was huge in terms of the atmosphere around the club and the dressing room," he told the club website.

"We were desperate as a squad to win that game. It's the first time this group, a newish group formed at the start of last season and before this season, has reached the end of a competition together."

"We came through it really well and

hopefully we can take the positive experiences from that and try and build momentum for many more cup finals," added Cahill.

"We are very proud of winning our first trophy as a group together and getting that win at West Ham. But they are gone, all that is on our minds now is the PSG game."

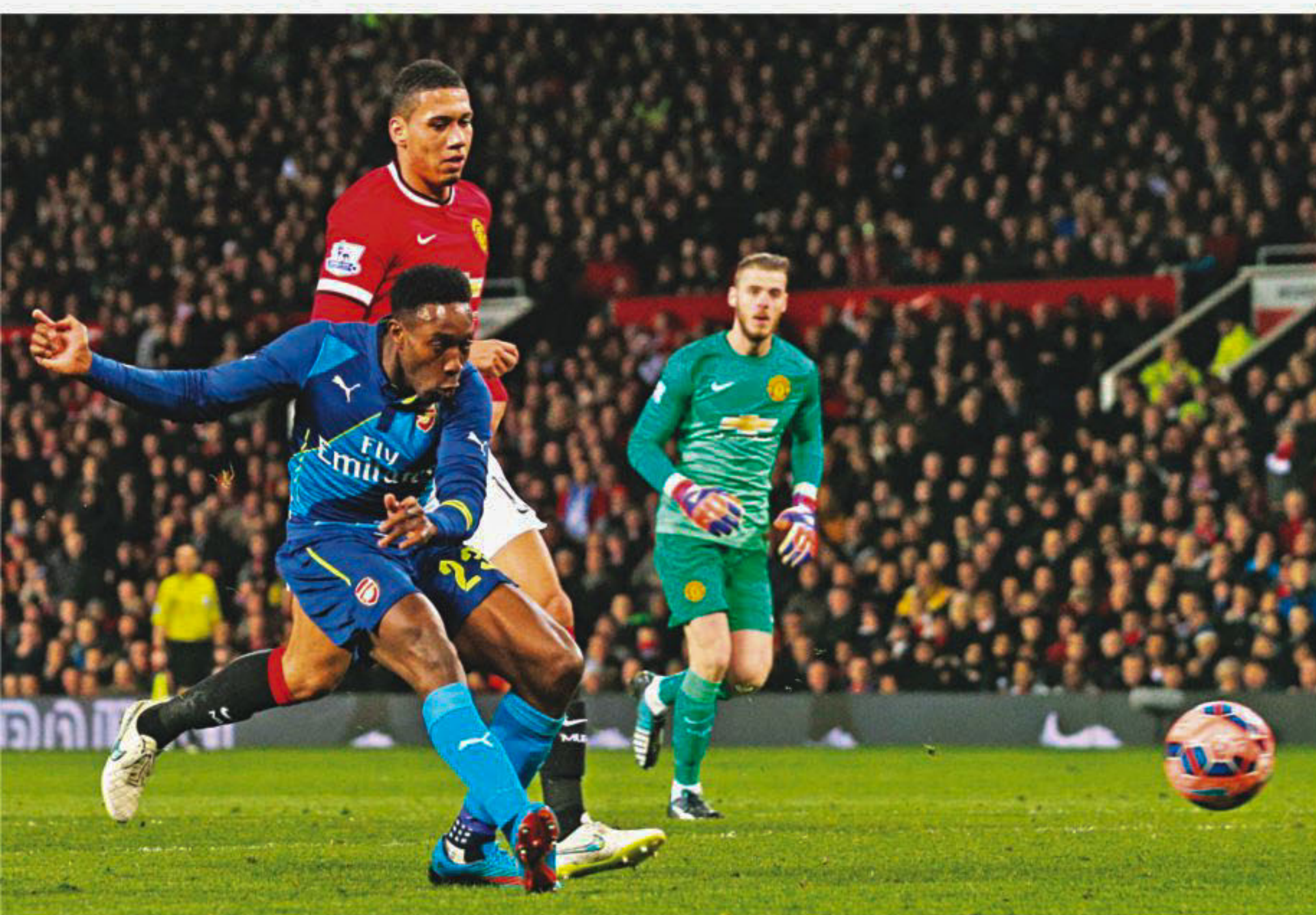
Zlatan Ibrahimovic was missing through injury when PSG were beaten on away goals by Chelsea in last season's quarterfinals but the French club's talismanic striker is fit this time round.

Last month's first leg in Paris ended in a 1-1 draw and visiting coach Laurent Blanc wants his attack to be more ruthless than they were during Saturday's 4-1 victory over struggling RC Lens in Ligue 1.

"When you play a game like the one against Lens you must be efficient," said Blanc who criticised Argentine forward Ezequiel Lavezzi for wasting an opportunity in front of an open goal.

"If he misses the same chance at Stamford Bridge I won't be the only one who is not happy."

PSG will be without injured forward Lucas but fellow Brazilian David Luiz returns to Chelsea for the first time since moving to Paris in the close season.



Arsenal striker Danny Welbeck (L) scores the winning goal against Manchester United during their FA Cup quarterfinal at Old Trafford on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Pogba leads Juventus

REUTERS, Milan



Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba scored a sublime goal to break Sassuolo's determined resistance and give his side a 1-0 win which sent them 11 points clear at the top of Serie A and closer to a fourth successive title on Monday.

Veteran striker Miroslav Klose helped himself to two goals as Lazio crushed Fiorentina 4-0 in the other game, a result that boosted their chances of reaching next season's Champions League.

Juventus struggled to break down Sassuolo for 82 minutes and appeared to be running out of ideas until Pogba, who himself had just been booked after showing signs of frustration, broke the deadlock.

The Frenchman, showing superb control, collected Simone Pepe's pass and, without breaking stride, volleyed past Andrea Consigli from the edge of the area with his second touch.

The win took Juventus onto 61 points from 26 games, while fading AS Roma, who are second, have 50 after their goalless draw at Chievo on Sunday.

Lucas Biglia set Lazio on their way and an Antonio Candreva penalty put

them in complete control as they went joint third with Napoli on 46 points.

Fiorentina, whose Champions League hopes took a hefty blow as they dropped four points behind their opponents in joint fifth, were unrecognisable from the team that won 2-1 at Juventus in the Italian Cup on Thursday.

The top two qualify for the Champions League group stage and the third-placed club go into the final playoff round.

Argentina midfielder Biglia began the rout when he volleyed home from the edge of the penalty area after six minutes.

Healing the wounds

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had created and, fortunately enough, that's what they did in Adelaide.

Perhaps the best part about this win was that it had broken long-established norms. They didn't depend on Shakib Al Hasan or Tamim Iqbal; they didn't look towards their army of spinners and neither did they buckle under pressure during crunch moments.

It was an underdog who scored the century; it was the pacers who made England's life miserable and it was the Bangladeshis who repeatedly came back in a match which saw the odds swing like a pendulum.

In general defeats can never be forgotten. We are, after all, just a click away from recalling the stat that Bangladesh had lost 13 out of their first 14 ODIs in 2014. However, they can be forgiven. And the way the Tigers roared in Adelaide on Monday, a major portion of the wounds of 2014 seemed to have healed, for it was a performance that met the hopes and expectations of 160 million.

ARE YOU A CRICKET GURU?

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