

**Jnr athletics starts tomorrow**

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
AKM Shamsuzzoha Smriti 31st National Junior Athletics Championships get underway at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow, with approximately 500 athletes from 64 districts competing in the two-day meet.  
The participating athletes -- boys, girls and adolescents -- will be competing in four sections in 19 events, informed Bangladesh Athletics Federation's general secretary Ibrahim Chengis at a press conference at the BNS conference room yesterday.  
AKM Shamsuzzoha Foundation will provide Tk 5 lakh out of an estimated budget of Tk 10 lakh. AKM Shamim Osman MP, a member of the foundation, promised to build an athletics stadium and academy in Narayanganj, during the press conference.



Mohammedan's young forward Mohammad Ibrahim enjoys the adulation of his teammates and officials after scoring the winning goal against Abahani in their Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**PSG world's top paying team**

**AFP, London**  
French champions Paris Saint-Germain pay their players higher salaries than any other team in world sport, according to figures published on Wednesday.  
The Global Sports Salaries Survey for 2015 produced by the website Sporting Intelligence found that PSG pay their first-team players an average yearly salary of £5.299 million (\$8.236 million, 7.416 million euros).  
It took the Ligue 1 giants, bankrolled by Qatar Sports Investments, to first place in the list, with Manchester City, who topped the poll in 2014, slipping to third place with an average yearly wage of £5.015 million.  
Last season's European champions Real Madrid came second, while Barcelona, Manchester United, Bayern Munich, Chelsea and Arsenal all made the top 10.  
The survey only takes into account earnings for playing sport and ignores income from commercial endorsements or other activities.

**TOP 10 HIGHEST-PAYERS**

1. Paris Saint-Germain (FRA/football) £5,298,693
2. Real Madrid (ESP/football) £5,040,520
3. Manchester City (ENG/football) £5,015,122
4. Barcelona (ESP/football) £4,715,116
5. Los Angeles Dodgers (USA/baseball) £4,679,937
6. Manchester United (ENG/football) £4,679,377
7. Bayern Munich (GER/football) £4,468,643
8. Chelsea (ENG/football) £4,353,056
9. New York Yankees (USA/baseball) £4,263,577

**Ibrahim sinks Abahani**

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
A last-gasp strike from teenage winger Mohammad Ibrahim helped Mohammedan SC to a 1-0 win against archrivals Abahani in their crucial encounter of Manyavar Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.  
The 18-year-old young forward from Cox's Bazar silenced the Sky Blues faithful, sending the other half of some 2000 fans into frenzy after his opportunist strike in the 90th minute decided the dour affair between the perennial rivals of Dhaka football. The young forward, who had played for Muktijoddha Sangsad's senior and junior teams last season, smashed the ball into the top corner of the net after a miscued header from Abahani defender Obam Henry on a free-kick from Mohammedan goalie Ashraful Islam Rana had fallen into his path inside the box.  
Out of sheer ecstasy, Ibrahim stripped off his shirt and ran towards the touchline to the applause of Mohammedan supporters as the Abahani players

were left to count the cost of a moment's lapse.  
While the win lifted Mohammedan to second position on 20 points, three behind leaders Sheikh Jamal, Abahani slipped to fifth with 17 points. All the three sides have completed 10 matches of the first

ABAHANI	0 - 1	MOHAMMEDAN
SK RUSSEL	1 - 1	RAHMATGANJ

leg.  
The match got off to a cagey start as both sides adopted a cautious approach. Abahani played a lot of miss passes and failed to find their rhythm while Mohammedan also failed to generate their usual speedy game. But things changed in the second half as both sides came out with all-out attacking approach, which yielded chances at either end.  
Abahani was denied by the woodwork in the 47th minute when Osei Morison's powerful drive hit the crossbar before Jewel Rana almost gave Mohammedan the lead in the 67th minute. The young winger made a bursting run from the midfield and continued into the box, but his left-footed attempt sailed over the crossbar.  
And as it looked like the first big clash of the league between these two perennial foes would end in a stalemate, which would not have helped either in their title charge, young Ibrahim sprang up to snatch a crucial win, making Abahani pay for Henry's miscued header.  
"The players tried to play one or two passes and then played long ball instead of passing football. It seemed to me that they were playing in fear and could not create any chance throughout the game," said a frustrated George Kottan, who termed the decider as an 'own goal'.  
**SHEIKH RUSSEL DROP POINTS**  
Meanwhile, Sheikh Russel Kriya Chakra missed an opportunity to get within one point of leaders Sheikh Jamal DC after being held to a 1-1 draw by Rahmatganj MFS in the second match of the day.  
The former champions, who started the day on 19 points from nine matches, took the lead in the first minute of stoppage time through a penalty conversion by Zahid Hasan Emily, who had earlier squandered a spot-kick in the 33rd minute. However, Rahmatganj substitute Mannaf Rabbi snatched the draw with a strike from the

**KGC ready for Asian Tour**

**SPORTS REPORTER**  
The Kurmitola Golf Club is completing last ditch preparations as the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open knocks on the door. The first-ever Asian Tour event in Bangladesh, to be held from May 27 to 30, will feature 31 golfers from the host country and some 119 more from 23 other countries, said speakers at a press conference at the KGC Conference Centre yesterday.  
The foreign participants will all be here by the 24th of May and will have two days of practice at the KGC golf course. 25 selected professionals will team up with 75 local amateurs for a friendly Pro-Am matchplay on the eve of the mega event.  
The event will be administered by 33 Asian Tour officials among whom four are from Bangladesh. Apart from them, there will be around 380 local officials and ground staff working round the clock for smooth functioning of the event. The ticket price has been set at Tk 300 per day for the members and Tk 500 per day for general public, it was informed at the press conference.  
Meanwhile the usual 72-par course has been re-adjusted to 71-par, for this event, as per recommendation of the Asian Tour authority. Even though the prizemoney of this event is 300,000-dollars, the event will have an overall budget of above 600,000 dollars, it was claimed.  
The press conference was attended, among others, by Bangladesh Golf Federation's secretary general brigadier general Abul Fazal Mohammad Sanaullah.



**CARICATURE CARPET FOR KLOPP**

As his imminent departure draws closer, Borussia Dortmund fans are preparing to send Jurgen Klopp off in the manner befitting a man who brought the good times back to them. Dortmund-based TWR carpet laundry company are keen to show their appreciation to Klopp in the only way they know how -- by presenting the outgoing coach with a specially commissioned 'caricature carpet' woven in black and yellow. The carpet was first commissioned at the beginning of the 2014/15 season, before Klopp announced he was leaving and took six months to

**STERLING accepts award**

**AFP, Liverpool**  
A mixture of boos and calls for him to stay greeted Liverpool and England forward Raheem Sterling when he received the club's Young Player of the Year award on Tuesday a day after it emerged he wants a transfer.  
The 20-year-old -- who joined Liverpool from Queens Park Rangers in 2010 -- had stirred up fans feelings when it was reported in Tuesday's papers he was seeking a move away having turned down a new contract worth around £100,000 (\$155,500, 139,000 euros) a week.  
While his agent moved to calm the mood earlier on Tuesday by saying the reports had been "blown somewhat out of proportion" it is still expected that Sterling will tell club manager Brendan Rodgers and chief executive Ian Ayre at a meeting on Friday he wishes to leave.  
Speaking at the awards -- where Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho was named player of the year -- Rodgers admitted it had been a "difficult, trying season".  
"A number of distractions that we couldn't have planned for have made it difficult, but the players have given everything," added Rodgers, whose own position at the club has been questioned as they missed out not only on silverware but also a Champions League place.  
If Sterling -- who told the BBC earlier this year he was not a 'moneygrabber' but wanted to win trophies -- does go on the market deposed English champions Manchester City are the perceived favourites to sign him.  
Sterling told Rodgers he wanted to leave before Liverpool's 1-1 draw with Chelsea game on May 10, but it is understood Liverpool want to retain his services.  
Sterling has two years left on his current deal, thought to be worth £35,000 a week.  
Sterling is believed to want to play in the Champions League and, aside from City's interest, Real Madrid, Arsenal and Chelsea are also reported to be watching the situation.  
Liverpool's US-based owners Fenway Sports Group will demand a fee of around £50 million before they would consider selling.  
The Sterling issue is another blow to Rodgers, who has struggled to replace Luis Suarez following the Uruguay striker's move to Barcelona last year.



**Hamilton inks new Merc deal**

**AFP, Berlin**  
Mercedes announced on Wednesday that reigning world champion Lewis Hamilton has signed a three-year contract extension, ending speculation about his future with the German Formula One team.  
Including win bonuses, the 30-year-old Briton stands to make between 30 and 40 million euros per year having won last season's world drivers' championship and is dominating the current campaign with victory in three of the five races so far.  
Hamilton's contract had been due to expire at the end of the season, but the Briton says he is happy to race for Mercedes until 2018.  
There had been rumours that Hamilton would join Ferrari to replace Kimi Raikkonen in 2016, before Hamilton committed to Mercedes.  
"Mercedes is my home and I couldn't be happier to be staying here for another three years," said Hamilton.  
"This is a company filled with real passionate racers, from the board room to the factory floor, and an incredible hunger to win."

**Jerome defends Kevin-Prince**

**AFP, Berlin**  
Germany defender Jerome Boateng has jumped to the defence of half-brother Kevin-Prince Boateng by insisting the Ghana international is being used as a scapegoat by Schalke following a poor season.  
The Royal Blues kicked both Kevin-Prince Boateng and Germany winger Sidney Sam out of the squad, and suspended midfielder Marco Hoeger, 10 days ago following their shock 2-0 league defeat at Cologne.  
The result had threatened to see Schalke drop out of the top six in Germany's Bundesliga after the Royal Blues had already missed out on a Champions League berth for next season for the first time since the 2010/11 season.

Boateng, 28, remains under contract with Schalke, but is allowed to talk to other clubs to negotiate a transfer and has already been linked to former club AC Milan.  
Schalke has told both Sam and Berlin-born Kevin-Prince, who played for the Black Stars at the 2014 World Cup, that they have no future with the club, but Bayern Munich defender Jerome Boateng says his half-brother has been treated unfairly.  
"They were clearly looking for a scapegoat," the Bayern defender told German magazine Sport Bild.  
"My brother hadn't played for weeks in the starting side.  
"Just because he started one game in the team, which has been playing without success for weeks, he is supposed to have suddenly pulled the whole team down?"  
"He doesn't have an explanation for the sudden turn of events, he is naturally very disappointed with

those responsible at Schalke, which I can completely understand.  
"Why wasn't the whole team criticised for the defeat?  
"Instead, they threw two players out, one of whom also spent five weeks on the bench with Kevin, and had still done all they could."  
The German professional footballers union, the VDV, has urged Sam and Kevin-Prince to take legal action against Schalke, who will pay their contracts until they expire in 2018 and 2016 respectively unless they are sold.  
Meanwhile, Jerome Boateng was sent to the dressing room, along with Bayern Munich team-mate Robert Lewandowski, by coach Pep Guardiola on Wednesday after a war-of-words erupted between the pair in training.  
The Bayern stars had to be separated after a hard tackle by Boateng on Lewandowski.

**Scolari steps down at Gremio**

**AFP, Sao Paulo**  
Former Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari stepped down Tuesday at Porto Alegre-based side Gremio following a weekend loss to Curitiba to end a third spell in charge of the southerners.  
The 66-year-old took over a month after he resigned as national coach following the World Cup -- hosts Brazil suffered a humiliating 7-1 humbling by Germany in the semi-finals -- but has been unable to take the club to new heights after pleas to strengthen the squad fell largely on deaf ears.  
"He asked to resign this morning and I understood his cycle and capacity to take the club on had come to an end," said club chairman Romildo Bolzan after the club managed just one point from its opening two matches of the new league campaign.  
Gremio finished seventh last season but missed out on a place in the Libertadores Cup and lost their state league final to arch rivals Internacional two weeks ago.  
Scolari -- who in his first spell as Brazil coach guided them to the 2002 World Cup title -- had previously led Gremio to Libertadores glory in 1995.



Kevin-Prince Boateng was kicked out of the Schalke squad 10 days ago after their shock 2-0 league defeat at Cologne.

PHOTO: AFP

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