

<h1>What to WATCH</h1>	TEN CRICKET Pakistan v Zimbabwe First ODI Live from 5:00pm	NEO SPORTS French Open Men's & Women's First Rd Live from 3:00pm
	DAY'S EVENT Bangladesh Cricket League Venue: SBNCs, Mirpur Central Zone v North Zone	Venue: Chittagong South Zone v East Zone Longer Version, Day 3
		Venue: Mirpur Indoor Stadium Uzbekistan v Turkmenistan Time: 2:00pm

TRAGEDY IN 2ND-DIV MATCH

Cristian Gomez, a player with Argentine club Atletico Parana, died on Sunday after collapsing during a second-division match. The Argentine Football Association match supervisor for the game, Ramon Gomez, said the 27-year-old defender collapsed on the field in the first half of the match against Boca Unidos. The official said the player was taken to General San Martin hospital in the city of Corrientes, where doctors were unable to revive him. The cause of death was not immediately known. Boca Unidos player Jose Vizcarra said



Siddikur leads local hopes

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace golfer Siddikur Rahman is hoping to get back to winning ways in his home course of Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC) as the Asian Tour (AT) makes its debut in Bangladesh through the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open, starting tomorrow.

The two-time AT winner, who missed four cuts in five events this season, is confident of playing according to the demands of this particular course to win his first AT event in almost two years.

"While local players get an advantage due to their familiarity with the course, success also depends on experience and confidence. I am confident that if I can play according to the demand of this course, which I know very well as it is my home course, I can win it," said the 30-year-old golfer during an official press conference ahead of the 300,000-dollar event.

Siddikur has had a torrid time in the second half of last season and so far this season, struggling with a nagging

back-strain, which ruled him out of quite a few events, and a slight wrist injury of late. But the ace golfer believes he has recovered completely and is mentally and physically fit to take the challenge.

"Even though I didn't have any practice before yesterday (Sunday), I feel I am physically fit to play for a week. The good thing about playing in your home course is you forget every problem you had in the past," said Siddikur, hoping that his fellow KGC golfers like Jamal Hossain Mollah, Shakhawat Hossain Sohel, Mohammad Sayum, Jakiruzzaman will have a good chance due to their familiarity with the course.

Four-time AT winner Mardan Mamat of Singapore is also of the opinion that it will be difficult to take away the title from the locals golfers, who will have 31-strong representation.

"The local players have an advantage here. They know the course well and that will help them do well this week," said the 48-year-old veteran, who is riding a rich vein of form following a third place finish in Mauritius two weeks ago.

Despite the fact that weather can be extremely oppressive in this time of the year, most of the Asian golfers will not feel too out of place due to the similarity of their weather conditions. USA's Berry Henson, for one, feels the weather is quite comfortable.

"I live in Thailand so I'm used to the heat. This weather is perfect. If it stays like this all week, it will be easier for me," said the American, who boasts only one AT title he won in Philippines four years ago.

Thailand will have the biggest representation, after hosts Bangladesh, with 30 golfers including record 18-time winner Thaworn Wiratchant. The next best represented country in India with 26 golfers taking part.

Wiratchant, Siddikur and India's Digvijay Singh will tee off from the 10th hole at 7:30pm tomorrow, 10 minutes after Mamat, Rashid Khan and Chawalit Plaphol tee off from the same hole. The first tee-off of the opening round will begin at 6:30pm.

But before the big event starts, there will be a Pro-Am event involving 27 professionals and 73 amateurs at the KGC today.



(From L) Berry Henson, Siddikur Rahman, Rashid Khan and Mardan Mamat pose for a photograph at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday ahead of the Bashundhara Bangladesh Open, which starts on Wednesday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Highs and lows of EPL 2014-15

CHELSEA

High point
The win over Crystal Palace that secured Chelsea's fourth Premier League title was euphoric. It wasn't convincing but Chelsea won't have cared a jot.

Low point
Their Champions League exit against Paris Saint-Germain. They looked to have done the hard work with a 1-1 draw in France. But against 10 men at the Bridge, they were poor.

Star of the season
Eden Hazard. A breathtaking season from the Belgian. John Terry, too, was phenomenal - but Hazard was a cut above everyone in the Premier League.



Flop of the season
Filipe Luis. Supposed to be Ashley Cole's successor. Hasn't worked out that way. Not £16million well spent. Will head back to Spain this summer.

Signing of the season
Cesc Fabregas, £27m, Barcelona. His exquisite pass to set up Andre Schurrle's goal in the season opener against Burnley set the tone. Truly world class.

Best quote
Jose Mourinho: 'There is a campaign against Chelsea. I don't know why there is this campaign and I do not care.' - The Special One's now infamous rant after a 1-1 draw at Southampton.

goals in 41 games and deserved better from his teammates.

Flop of the season
Eliaquim Mangala. It was lauded as a coup when City snatched the Porto defender from under Chelsea's noses (albeit a £32m coup) last summer. The young Frenchman, however, has at times treated the ball like a hand grenade and will have to show considerable improvement next season.

Signing of the season
Frank Lampard, free, Chelsea. Hardly any stiff competition for Frank but the veteran has chipped in with seven crucial goals and made 37 appearances. The fact that City kept him for longer than originally intended (at the risk of upsetting their friends in New York) spoke volumes.

Best quote
'Yeah, I usually can't tell but I did with that one. I thought, "Wow".' A modest Joe Hart relives his flying save at Swansea City with Sportsmail's Ian Ladyman.

TOPS OF THE SEASON

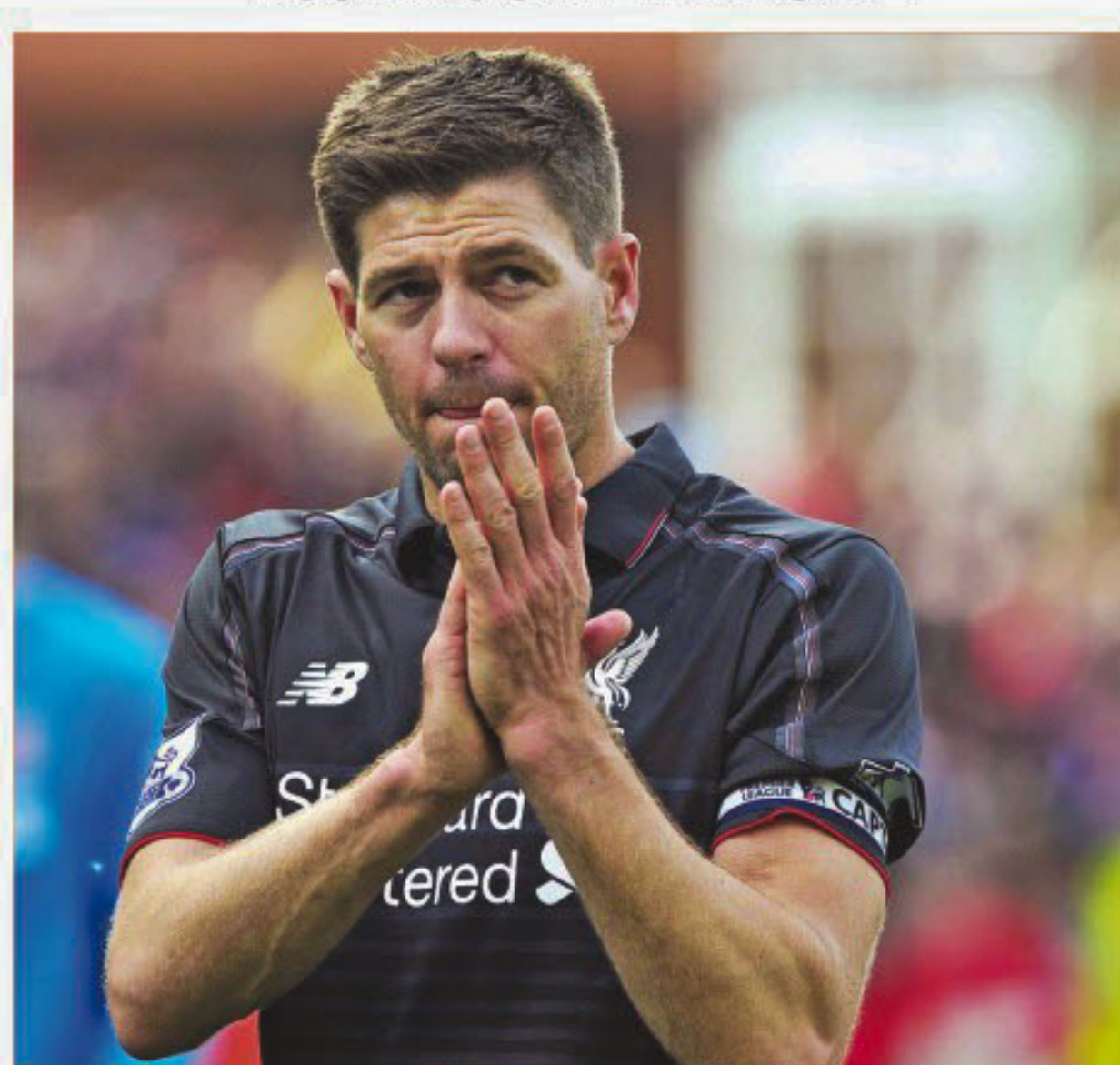


JOSE MOURINHO



EDEN HAZARD

ICONIC DEPARTURE



STEVEN GERRARD

FLOPS OF THE SEASON



MARIO BALOTELLI



BRENDAN RODGERS

ARSENAL

High point
That could still be to come at Wembley this weekend. But so far their FA Cup win at Old Trafford was a landmark moment. Exercising demons - there's no better feeling. Their win at Manchester City comes a close second, though.

Low point
Wojciech Szczesny's infamous cigarette in the Southampton dressing room. Disgraceful behaviour - he's been No 2 ever since. And rightly so. It may have cost him his Arsenal career.

Star of the season
Alexis Sanchez - Where would they be without this guy? Without doubt, £30million well spent. An excep-



tional debut season in England. Flop of the season Wojciech Szczesny. Reckless flouting of club rules meant Wenger had no option but to dump his first choice keeper. His performances weren't up to much either.

Signing of the season
Alexis Sanchez, £30m, from Barcelona. Has carried the Gunners at times this season. A bargain at £30million. Will not suffer from second season syndrome. He's too good for that.

Best quote
Arsene Wenger: 'We've made contact with the embassy.' - the Arsenal manager's peculiar way of revealing talks regarding over a new contract for Theo Walcott have been initiated.

MAN UTD

High point
United fans will still tell you beating Liverpool is the one that matters but April's 4-2 derby win over Manchester City was the result of the year. Their sixth Premier League success in a row took them into third - and a rocking Old Trafford had finally grasped the Louis van Gaal philosophy.

Low point
The 4-0 Capital One Cup drubbing at League One MK Dons on August 26 and Van Gaal's subsequent admission that he was 'not surprised' had Reds wondering if Ed Woodward had chosen the wrong man for the second time in 12 months.

Star of the season
Ashley Young. David de Gea may have picked up the award but we expected what we saw from the superb Spaniard. We did not expect Ashley Young to be in the team, let



alone become a consistent performer in a new position.

Flop of the season
Angel di Maria. Just nudges out the equally woeful Radamel Falcao because he came with slightly higher expectations. The break-in at the Argentine's home clearly contributed to his downfall but, at the risk of sounding harsh, looks like a £59.7m mistake.

Signing of the season
Ander Herrera, £28m, Athletic Bilbao. Initially did not hit it off with his manager but the all-action midfielder learned from his mistakes and has been a consistent performer over the second half of the season. Heshoots, heshoots.

Best quote
'Hello, hello, hey! Pay attention to the manager.' Having already delighted fans with a rousing, rambling speech at the end-of-season do, a seemingly well-oiled Van Gaal takes to the stage once more to demand a round of applause for the saxophone player.

Juve sweat on Barzagli

AFP, Milan

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri has been handed a potential tactical dilemma for next month's Champions League final after defender Andrea Barzagli was diagnosed with a torn thigh muscle on Monday.

Barzagli, who only made his return from a lengthy injury lay-off last month, limped off at half-time in Juve's 3-1 league win over Napoli on Saturday.

He underwent examinations on Monday which "showed that the defender has suffered a first grade tear of the rectus femoris muscle in his right thigh", according to a club statement.

It added: "Barzagli will now begin treatment and both his condition and availability for June's Champions League final are to be monitored on a day-to-day basis."

Juventus, who completed their first double in 20 years with a 2-1 Cup final victory over Lazio last week, will hope to secure a treble of trophies when they meet Barcelona in the Champions League final in Berlin on June 6.

However Barzagli's possible absence could be problematic for Allegri, whose Juventus side has been most successful this season when deployed in a 4-3-1-2 formation instead of the 3-5-2 in which Barzagli is most comfortable.

Juventus close the Serie A season next week with an away trip to Verona.

Pellegrini expects to stay

AFP, Manchester

Manuel Pellegrini insists he will still be in charge of Manchester City at the start of next season after the deposed champions ended the campaign with a 2-0 victory over Southampton.

A sixth consecutive win ensured Pellegrini's side rounded off the season in impressive form and, with chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak on hand at Eastlands for Sunday, the City manager played down suggestions he could face a difficult meeting with his employer after surrendering the title to Chelsea and failing to win a trophy this term.

"I'm always talking with Khaldoon every week," he said. "I don't need a special meeting with him."

"Of course when you finish the season you must analyse what we did, where we made mistakes and where we must improve, but we have very good communication."

Diego attacks Sepp

AFP, London

Argentina legend Diego Maradona has attacked world football chief Sepp Blatter, calling the 79-year-old Swiss "a dictator" and claiming his bid for a fifth term as FIFA president is "an absurdity".

Maradona's scathing personal attack in The Daily Telegraph comes days before Blatter seeks an unprecedented fifth term at the helm of football's governing body.

Blatter is in a two horse race to continue in the post he assumed in 1998 - the only other candidate being Prince Ali bin Al Hussein of Jordan after Luis Figo and Michael van Praag pulled out last week.

Blatter has been widely criticised during his reign and Maradona is aghast that he is the overwhelming favourite to retain his position.

The 1986 World Cup winner told The Telegraph: "Under Sepp Blatter, Fifa has

become a disgrace and a painful embarrassment to those of us who care about football deeply.

"While I find almost no one openly supporting Blatter, many think he will win a fifth term. Why? The whole notion of a fifth term is an absurdity in 2015.

"No one has argued that he is the best man for the job and deserves to win.

"Recently he pledged to follow through in addressing racism in football and promoting women in the sport. That made me laugh. My question is: 'Sepp, what were you doing in your last four terms?'"

"We have a dictator for life. I call Blatter 'the man of ice' because he lacks the inspiration and passion that are at the very heart of football. If this is the face of international football, we are in a very bad place."

The election takes place at the FIFA Congress in Zurich on Friday, with the winner needing a majority from FIFA's 209 member federations.



Falcao returns to Monaco

AFP, Manchester

Colombia striker Radamel Falcao has returned to Monaco following his season-long loan spell at Manchester United, the English club announced on Sunday.

The 29-year-old, who joined the Reds on transfer deadline day last September, had a tough time at Old Trafford, scoring just four goals in 29 appearances.

"Falcao is a top professional and a good human being. On behalf of myself and everyone at the club I would like to wish him well for the future." United's coach Louis van Gaal told the club's official website.

Falcao missed last year's World Cup with a knee injury.

Radwanska's shock exit

AFP, Paris



World number four Tomas Berdych eased into the French Open second round Monday as heavyweights Maria Sharapova and Andy Murray waited to make their 2015 Roland Garros bows.

But there was more Paris misery for ex-world number two and former Wimbledon runner-up Agnieszka Radwanska, who was a shock first-round loser.

Berdych, a 2010 semifinalist, continued his solid claycourt season with a 6-0, 7-5, 6-3 win over Japanese qualifier Yoshihito Nishioka, the world number 146.

The 29-year-old Berdych will face Davis Cup-winning teammate Radek Stepanek, the oldest man in the draw at 36, for a place in the last 32.

Stepanek became the oldest man to win a match at Roland Garros since 38-year-old Jimmy Connors in 1991 when he saw off Croatian journeyman Ivan Dodig 5-7, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1.

Spain's 11th seed Feliciano Lopez was the biggest men's casualty so far on the day when he lost to Russian world number 74

Teymuraz Gabashvili, 6-3, 7-6 (11/9), 6-3.

In the women's event, Spanish eighth seed Carla Suarez Navarro, a quarter-finalist in 2008 and 2014, beat Romania's Monica Niculescu 6-2, 6-2.

But Polish 14th seed Radwanska went down 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 to Germany's Annika Beck.

The defeat was only the third time in 34 Grand Slam tournaments that 26-year-old Radwanska had lost in the first round. There were home wins for French 29th seed Alize Cornet, who defeated Roberta Vinci 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 for her first victory over the veteran Italian in five attempts, and wildcard Amandine Hesse, ranked 272, who hit back to beat Australia's Jarmila Gajdosova 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Hesse's reward is a second-round match-up with 2010 runner-up Samantha Stosur, the winner in Strasbourg at the weekend, who defeated Madison Brengle of the United States 6-1, 6-3.

Virginie Razzano, playing in her 17th French Open, edged out Paraguay's Veronica Cepede Royg 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Kerber, a quarter-finalist in 2012, brushed aside Timea Babos of Hungary 6-0, 6-1.