



Sheikh Jamal proved their credentials once again as they clinched the Bangladesh Premier League title with two games in hand. The Dhanmondi-based outfit seem to have an affinity for the league, having won it in three of the five times they have competed.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## DROGBA'S RAUCOUS RECEPTION

It seems to have taken him a while but Didier Drogba is now a Montreal Impact player having signed with the MLS side earlier in the week. Touching down in Canada for the first time on Wednesday afternoon, Drogba was greeted by frenzied throngs as hundreds of fans stampeded through Montreal—Pierre Elliott Trudeau airport to get a look at their hero. The former Chelsea striker captured his first steps on Canadian soil on Twitter. There were even Ivorian drums being played as Drogba muddled his way through the



# Sk Jamal keep title

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club retained the Bangladesh Premier League title with two matches left as they handed a 3-2 defeat to falling giants Mohammedan Sporting Club in an entertaining encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Their 14th win in 18 matches provided Sheikh Jamal an unassailable lead in the 11-team table with 45 points and the third title in five seasons for the new leviathans of Bangladesh football.

This is also the third trophy of the season for the cash-rich Dhanmondi outfit after the Federation Cup and Bhutan's King's Cup.

Sheikh Jamal in 2010 splashed the cash by roping in a host of national stars as well as quality foreign players. The impact was instant as they lifted the professional league title in their debut season before repeating the feat in the 2013-2014 season.

A youthful Mohammedan, who were in second position with 34 points from 18 outings, gave the star-studded Sheikh Jamal a run for their money after a come-from-behind 2-1 lead, before Gambian midfielder Landing Darboe struck the winner for Sheikh Jamal from a 'controversial' free-kick on the edge of the box to send the club officials into raptures.

Having survived two curling free-kick from Mohammedan's Habibur Rahman Shohag, Sheikh Jamal took the lead against the run of play when Nigerian hitman Emeka Darlington smashed a glancing header on a Mamunul Islam corner kick in the 33rd minute.

But the lead lasted only six minutes as Mohammedan bit back as national winger Jewel Rana levelled the margin with a clever chip over goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel in the 39th minute, while Guinean marksman Ismail Bangoura headed Arup Kumar's cross home to give Mohammedan a lead at the break.

Haitian Wedson Anselme equalized by heading an Emeka cross home in the 55th minute and Landing struck

the winner in the 74th minute after referee Mizanur Rahman blew his whistle for foul at the edge of the box following a face-to-face tackle between Mohammedan's Sohel Rana Jr and Sheikh Jamal's Emeka Darlington.

"All credit goes to the players, who have worked hard throughout the season. We deserved the league title," said captain Mamunul Islam.

"Some extraordinary performances are needed to win the league title and we had those against Sheikh Russel and Mohammedan.

"It is always a sweet memory to win a third league title and we want to deliver it again next season," said an ecstatic Mamunul, who was a member of Sheikh Russel's treble-winning outfit and played for Abahanni during one of their four professional league titles.

Nigerian coach Joseph Afusi gave all credit to the players and set his new target as qualifying for the final round of the AFC Cup, with Sheikh Jamal set for the play-off qualifiers in Kyrgyzstan from August 13 to 15.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

## Bangladesh get 3 gold

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh grabbed three gold medals in the Special Olympic Summer World Games in Los Angeles, United State yesterday, said a Special Olympic Bangladesh press release yesterday.

Shuttler Rezwanul Haque won gold in the singles of Division MSG15 in badminton, Mohammad Nayemur Rahman bagged gold in singles of Division MS11-15-D1 in Table Tennis and Sumon Khan grabbed gold in shotput 4kg category, clearing 9.66 meter.

Apart from the golds, Bibi Fatema won the bronze medal in shotput 3kg category. Swimmer Mosammat Khushi had a good outing, first winning a bronze medal in the 50m freestyle, before improving her performance in the 50m backstroke event to clinch silver.

## U-14 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL C'SHIP Tangail top Group B

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinal lineup of the JFA Under-14 Women's Football Championship was decided with Tangail and Narayanganj advancing to the last four after beating their respective rivals at the BFF artificial turf yesterday.

Tangail emerged Group B champions with a one-goal win over Rajshahi and will meet Dinaipur in the semifinal.

Narayanganj became Group B runners-up after playing out a 2-2 draw with Rangpur in their last group match and will play the semifinal against Mymensingh.

Both semifinals will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

# Kaka inspires MLS All-Stars

AFP, Chicago



Brazilian star Kaka scored one goal and set up another as the Major League Soccer All-Stars edged Tottenham 2-1 Wednesday in an international friendly featuring the North American league's elite talents.

Former FIFA world footballer of the year Kaka, who plays for Orlando, opened the scoring from the spot in the 20th minute, converting after Nacer Chadli was whistled for handball.

The All-Stars struck again in the 23rd minute with captain Kaka crossing for New York City's former Spain and Barcelona star David Villa to finish emphatically.

Kaka was named the All-Star Game's Most Valuable Player, an award he called "much more than I expected."

"I'm so happy for this night," Kaka added. "Not bad for my first

All-Star Game."

"We played an amazing game," Kaka said. "Everyone will see in the news that the MLS team beat a very important team."

Tottenham striker Harry Kane, denied twice from close range by MLS goalkeeper Nick Rimando, pulled one back for Spurs with a superb strike in the 37th minute, a day after his 22nd birthday.

Kane advanced on goal after collecting the ball when MLS defender Matt Besler fell.

The England striker then blasted a shot from the edge of the penalty area past the Real Salt Lake goalkeeper to trim the MLS edge to 2-1 at half-time.

An all-new set of MLS stars took the field in the second half while Spurs swapped generously as well, including introducing American defender DeAndre Yedlin in the 64th minute for a home-soil appearance.

Meanwhile in Chicago, Manchester United's pre-season US

## RESULTS

Manchester United 0 Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Matuidi 25, Ibrahimovic 34)  
Major League Soccer All-Stars 2 (Kaka 20-

tour ended on a losing note Wednesday as French giants Paris Saint-Germain claimed a 2-0 victory to clinch the International Champions Cup exhibition tournament.

First-half goals from Blaise Matuidi and Zlatan Ibrahimovic were enough to give the Ligue 1 side the win on a sweltering evening at Chicago's iconic Soldier Field stadium, home of the NFL Chicago Bears.

The English Premier League giants were undone by two goals from PSG which highlighted the defensive frailty of Louis van Gaal's squad, which has been bolstered by several high-profile signings this summer.

United began promisingly,

stroking the ball around comfortably and probing for openings against the Parisian defenders.

The Red Devils got the ball in the net after 22 minutes when Juan Mata prodded home Daley Blind's exquisite through ball, only for it to be ruled offside.

But three minutes later, PSG struck at the other end when a long ball forward caused havoc in United's defensive unit.

French international Matuidi raced forward and got between Luke Shaw and Phil Jones to toe-poke home past the onrushing David De Gea to make it 1-0.

PSG doubled their lead nine minutes later with a well-worked goal that came all too easily for the French champions.

Ibrahimovic picked up the ball in midfield and released Maxwell down the left flank.

The Brazilian fullback advanced and then calmly picked out Ibrahimovic with the return pass for the Swedish star to slot past De Gea.

# Where on earth is Di Maria?

GOAL.COM



Louis van Gaal has admitted he does not know where Manchester United's record signing Angel Di Maria is, with the Argentine's transfer to Paris Saint-Germain edging towards a conclusion.

Di Maria failed to report back for pre-season training as planned on July 25, with Van Gaal confirming he had not boarded a plane to meet his team-mates in San Jose to take part in the pre-season activities as planned.

And after United went down 2-0 to PSG in a pre-season game in Chicago on Wednesday night, the Dutchman claimed to have no idea of his player's whereabouts.

"I don't know where he is," Van Gaal admitted to a press conference.

However, his opposite number Laurent Blanc revealed that talks are at an advanced stage with the Argentine winger.

"Manchester United and Paris Saint-Germain are two big clubs, and negotiations can be difficult but we are close to an end," confirmed the Frenchman.

Di Maria moved to Old Trafford in a 59.7 million pound move from Real Madrid in August 2014, but struggled to fully adapt after a promising start and made only 20 starts in the Premier League last season. Although he was brought in as a marquee signing, it seems his time at Old Trafford is drawing to a close.

# Real lift Champions Cup

GOAL.COM



Real Madrid won the International Champions Cup after defeating AC Milan 10-9 on penalties following a 0-0 draw in Shanghai yesterday.

Madrid thrashed Manchester City 4-1 to win the International Champions Cup Australia last week and lifted the China version of the tournament on Thursday to end their pre-season tour unbeaten.

There was no separating the two sides in 90 minutes, with the impressive Kiko Casilla twice denying Milan new boy Carlos Bacca in the second half with fine saves.

It was left to spot-kicks to decide the winner of the trophy and it was Real who came out on top, with Bacca and 16-year-old Antonio Donnarumma failing to hold their nerve.

Donnarumma had denied Toni Kroos to extend the shootout, but he went from hero to villain and both sides will now head to Munich to take part in the Audi Cup next week.

Rafael Benitez included Luka Modric and Karim Benzema in his starting line-up after

the duo missed Monday's 3-0 victory over Inter due to niggles, while Sergio Ramos dropped to the bench. But Real lacked the attacking threat they posed in impressive wins against City and Inter.

Benitez and Sinisa Mihajlovic made several changes at half-time, with Bacca and Luiz Adriano among the Milan players to enter the fray, while Ramos and Kroos were also brought on.

Madrid looked far more dangerous after a poor first-half display and Diego Lopez kept out Cristiano Ronaldo's downward header after some lovely trickery and a precise cross from Isco.

Casilla thwarted the Colombia striker again when he surged into the penalty area and unleashed a well struck shot 10 minutes from time.

Bacca failed to find the back of the net once again in a shootout, but Kroos missed the chance to secure victory when Donnarumma kept out his spot-kick.

The young keeper was unable to find the back of the net himself, though, as Casilla's save ensured Madrid lifted another trophy.



Real Madrid players, led by captain Sergio Ramos (R), celebrate winning the International Champions Cup after an enthralling penalty shootout in Shanghai yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Bangladesh national cricket team members express their solidarity with a toy collection campaign called 'Toys-R-Us', an initiative by Ex-Cadets Forum, during a ceremony at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Wednesday. The campaign is intended to collect donation of used or unused toys and distribute those among underprivileged children. The Daily Star is the strategic partner of the project.

PHOTO: RATON GOMES

# Warner keeps Aussies afloat

AFP, Birmingham



David Warner's dashing unbeaten fifty kept Australia clinging on in the third Ashes Test against England at Edgbaston on Thursday.

At tea on the second day, Australia -- already in their second innings -- were 73 for two, a deficit of 72 runs, with opener Warner 56 not out.

Playing in typically aggressive fashion, he took the attack to England's bowlers with a 35-ball fifty including eight fours.

If he hadn't yet turned the tide of the match, Warner had at least given England something to think about after they dismissed veteran opener Chris Rogers and Steven Smith to leave Australia 62 for two.

Rogers, who had top-scored with 52 in Australia's meagre first innings 136, was lbw for six to a Stuart Broad delivery that angled in and held its

line.

Middlesex fast bowler Steven Finn, playing his first Test since 2013, then dismissed Smith for the second time in the match.

Smith, the world's number one ranked Test batsman skyed an intended pull and was caught by wicket-keeper Jos Buttler for eight, having managed seven in the first innings.

Earlier, number eight Moeen Ali's quickfire 59 helped England to 281 all out and a first-innings lead of 145.

Together with Broad (31), he put on a valuable 87 for the eighth wicket.

England were 182 for six when Birmingham-born Ali, who began his career with Edgbaston-based Warwickshire before moving to neighbouring Worcestershire, came to the crease.

Ali had been bounced out by Mitchell Johnson during the second innings of Australia's crushing 405-run victory in the second Test at Lord's.

But he faced down the left-arm paceman with a flurry of fours after

lunch, including two well-controlled pulls, a couple of wristy straight drives and a lofted shot over cover.

Ali had struck 11 fours in all when an uppercut off Josh Hazlewood flew straight to Warner at third man.

His exit left England 278 for nine and Hazlewood soon wrapped up the innings by having last man Anderson caught behind.

Prior to Ali's spirited effort, Johnson had given Australia a foothold in the match with two wickets -- including his 300th in Tests -- for no runs in three balls during his first over on Thursday after England had resumed on their overnight 133 for three.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 136  
ENGLAND: First innings 281 (Cook 34, Bell 53, Root 63, Moeen 59, Broad 31; Starc 2-71, Hazlewood 3-74, Johnson 2-66, Lyon 3-36)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 73 for 2 (Warner 56 not out, Clarke 2 not out,