

India U-19s skipper arrested

AGENCIES, New Delhi

India's Under-19 captain Ishan Kishan was arrested by police on Tuesday in a case of alleged reckless driving. It was reported that the 17-year-old cricketer was driving his father's car in Patna which rammied into an autorickshaw from behind. Due to the high speed of the car, passengers in the auto suffered injuries. The locals, along with the injured passengers, assaulted Ishan for the incident. Police was soon called and the officials impounded the cricketer's car, but no case was filed. The wicketkeeper-batsman from Patna was recently appointed the skipper of Indian team for U-19 World Cup to be held in Bangladesh from January 22.

Akmal ban put on hold

AGENCIES, Karachi

Umar Akmal's suspension has been put on hold by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), which means that the wicketkeeper-batsman will be available to play in the first Twenty20 International against New Zealand, scheduled to be played in Auckland on Friday. The 25-year-old was handed a one-match ban last week by the PCB for a dress code violation during Pakistan's domestic first-class tournament, the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. The decision was taken after the player appealed against the suspension, a report in ESPNcricinfo claimed. His penalty stands suspended till his appeal is decided upon by a tribunal, the report added.

SA player suspended for fixing

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

A former South African national player has been charged with corruption involving match-fixing, according to a claim in South African media. Cricket South Africa (CSA) said it had no comment on what it said was an ongoing investigation. Reports suggested that the former player was allegedly the "intermediary" who was the subject of a CSA press release in December. The intermediary was provisionally suspended from any activity related to cricket organised by CSA.

Rooney wants balance

AFP, London

Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney felt that his side's 3-3 draw at Newcastle United showed that they need to find the right balance between attack and defence. Lambasted for some turgid displays in recent weeks, Louis van Gaal's men turned in a much more fluid attacking display in a gripping Premier League encounter at St James' Park on Tuesday. But despite leading 2-0 and 3-2 -- Rooney scoring twice and creating a goal for Jesse Lingard -- they were pegged back in the last minute when Paul Dummett equalised for Newcastle with a deflected shot. "After going 2-0 up, we were in control of the game, and then we've let them back into it. To then get our third goal and concede again was disappointing from us," Rooney told in-house television channel MUTV. "They were silly goals to concede on our behalf and they were avoidable. They have cost us two points, so we're disappointed. "We can't keep going on conceding three goals every game, so we have to work on that and create the chances without giving goals away. "You can score as many goals as you want, but if you keep conceding goals, then it's a problem. We have to keep trying to get that balance right and keep creating chances, scoring goals and keeping them out." Rooney opened the scoring with a ninth-minute penalty and then set up Lingard with a fine reverse pass in the 38th minute.



Barcelona and Argentina superstar Lionel Messi poses with his five Ballon d'Or trophies in Barcelona on Tuesday.

FIFA fires Valcke

AFP, Zurich

FIFA has fired secretary general Jerome Valcke, who is under investigation for misconduct world football's governing body said Wednesday. The former right-hand man to Sepp Blatter, the FIFA president banned for eight years, has been accused of aiding a scheme to sell 2014 World Cup tickets on the black market. "The FIFA emergency committee decided, on 9 January 2016, to dismiss Jerome Valcke from the position of FIFA secretary general with immediate effect," said a statement. It said all of the Frenchman's employment with FIFA had been "terminated." Valcke was suspended on September 17 after the ethics committee started an inquiry into allegations that he helped sell 2014 World Cup tickets on the black market. The suspension was renewed on January 6.

AB hints at retirement

AFP, Johannesburg

New South African captain AB de Villiers said Wednesday he was fully committed to leading the team in the next two Tests against England, but confirmed there was "a bit of truth" in rumours he was considering retirement. "For two or three years I've been searching for the right answers to play a little less cricket in one way or another, to keep myself fresh and enjoying the game," he said. De Villiers, 31, admitted: "Every now and then I find I am not enjoying myself as much as I should be. I've been talking to a few people and obviously that's leaked." De Villiers was speaking ahead of the third Test against England which starts at the Wanderers Stadium on Thursday -- the first time he has spoken directly to journalists since an article appeared in a local newspaper claiming he was thinking of quitting. "I'm still very committed to the job," he said. "The two Test matches now is all that I am focusing on. There's a nice big break of six months before we play Test cricket again. Lots of things can happen before then. But for now I am as committed as I can be and very hungry to make a success of these two Test matches." De Villiers acknowledged that big-money Twenty20 tournaments around the world were tempting for players. "I think it's a going concern for the ICC (International Cricket Council) to find the right sort of structure to keep all the guys fresh. International cricket is the main cricket you want to play, especially Test cricket. "There are big tournaments going on around the world and some of them you can't ignore because financially they make a huge difference in our lives. But international cricket comes first and one or two things will have to happen in the future."

Cook wants Eng to wrap up series

REUTERS, Johannesburg

England expect results in both the remaining cricket tests against South Africa, with captain Alastair Cook saying he was excited at the prospect of wrapping up the series when the third test starts at the Wanderers on Thursday. England won the first test in Durban by 241 runs but played out a draw at Newlands in Cape Town last week - despite scoring 629 runs in their first innings, giving them a 1-0 lead in the four-test series. "It's an exciting time to play and we are in a really good position. The next two games are probably both on result wickets which means we need to win one of them to win the series, and that's a great situation to be in," he told a press conference on Wednesday. "We've played some good cricket so far on tour but obviously there is a danger in saying 'Ah, we just need to win one game' and looking too far ahead. There is a lot of hard work still, and you need to do a lot of good things to put South Africa under pressure and win the game. "As players, leading into the game, that's what we have started to concentrate on and the results will look after themselves if we play well," Cook added.

Messi named Dubai Expo ambassador

AFP, Dubai

Fresh from being awarded a record fifth Ballon d'Or, Lionel Messi was on Tuesday named as global ambassador for the Dubai World Expo in 2020. "Lionel Messi's performances on the football pitch bring people together, and as a result his influence reaches far beyond it," said the Dubai event's general manager Reem al-Hashimy in a statement. "He is the ideal person to be our first global ambassador. He overcame youthful health challenges to achieve his dreams of international excellence through hard work; making him an inspiration. "He is perfectly placed to reach out to young people around the world, bringing them together to join us as we work towards hosting our World Expo in 2020."



Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman (L) receives the Prime Bank International Rating Chess trophy from chief guest Muhammad Zamir, president of the Bangladesh Chess Federation, at the federation's hall room recently.

Court summons Neymar

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona's Brazilian star Neymar has been called to give evidence by Spain's national court on February 2 for alleged fraud surrounding his transfer to Barcelona in 2013. Both the player's parents, Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu and former club president Sandro Rosell, as well as two directors of Neymar's former club Santos have also been called to declare, according to a court filing released on Wednesday. Barcelona and Santos will also have to give evidence via representatives on February 9 and February 1 respectively. Public prosecutors filed for action to be taken against all the parties after a complaint of fraud and corruption was launched by the Brazilian investment fund DIS, which held 40 percent of Neymar's sporting rights when he played at Santos, at the court in June 2015. DIS has claimed it was cheated of its real share of the benefits of 23-year-old Neymar's transfer in 2013 because part of the transfer fee was concealed by Barcelona and Santos. The deal was originally valued at 57.1 million euros by the Catalan club, but the Spanish judicial authorities have estimated the amount to be at least 83.3 million.

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১৬ জন স্পেলার এখন সেমিফাইনালে

সেমিফাইনাল ০১

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ABC International School, Narayanganj

Dhruvo Saha
Scholastica, Dhaka

Sabir Hossain Sagor
Maple Leaf International School, Dhaka

Raisa Salsabil
Jalilabad Cantonment Public School & College, Sylhet

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Md. Sadiq Saadman
Chittagong Collegiate School, Chittagong

Sakib Ahmed
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