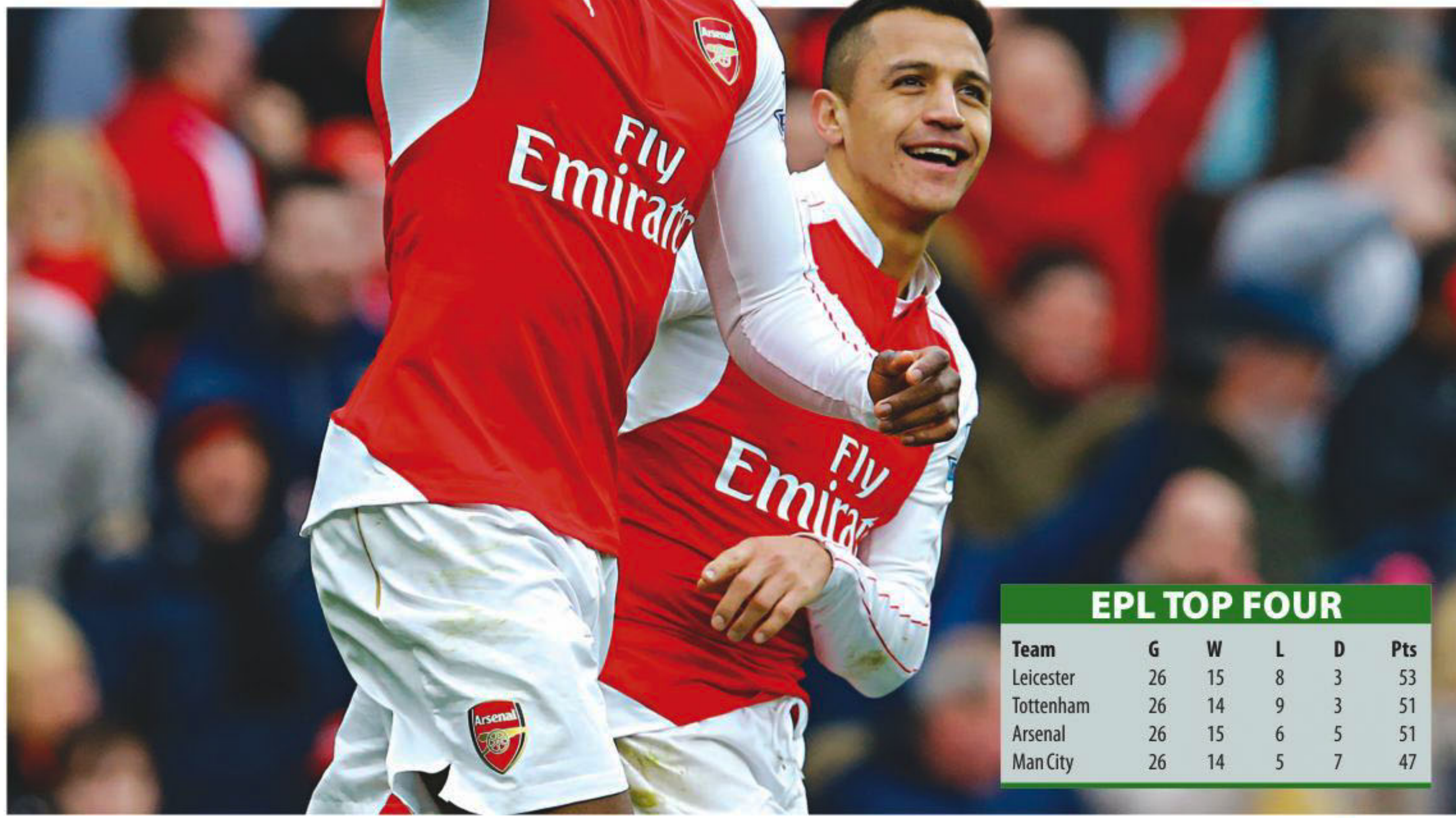


## BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP Rajakhali, Moricha in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajakhali Govt. Primary School of Pekua, Cox's Bazar and Moricha Govt. Primary School of Pirganj, Dinajpur set up a final clash of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament yesterday. Rajakhali beat Dhulaipar Govt. Primary School of Demra by 3-2 goals in the first semifinal while Moricha beat Maizbari Govt. Primary School by 3-1 goals in the second semifinal. Both the matches were held at the Central Ground of Dhaka University.

The final will take place tomorrow and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will witness the match as the chief guest.



Arsenal striker Danny Welbeck (L) came on as a late substitute against English Premier League leaders Leicester City yesterday, and he provided the magic touch in the dying embers of the game that ignited the Emirates Stadium.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## FOXES VARDY HARD IF THEY WIN

Leicester City's stars have reportedly been promised a celebratory trip to Las Vegas if they manage to win the Premier League this season. According to SunSport, the club's Thai owners didn't insert title bonuses in the reward packages of their players, doubting that they'd be able to win the league. Chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha has now reportedly agreed for the club to pay for the trip, with a £1m bonus to be shared amongst the squad as



## Aurier blasts Blanc, PSG

AFP, Paris



Paris Saint-Germain defender Serge Aurier could find himself in hot water after insulting manager Laurent Blanc and many of his team-mates in a live video he and a friend recorded with the online app Periscope on Saturday night.

The Ivorian appeared to use derogatory terms towards his coach in a conversation with his friend, while also saying demeaning Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The French champions have their most important match of the season on Tuesday with a Champions League last 16, first-leg tie against Chelsea at the Parc des Princes.

Aurier would have been expected to start that game after being rested for Saturday's league draw with Lille, but his social media outburst could cost him his place.

The Periscope app allows people to broadcast live videos via their smartphones, which Aurier did.

The 23-year-old Aurier continued to insult his team-mates, including Angel di Maria, whom he called a "clown".

The right-back has responded that the video was fake and old, but comments on the live feed referencing Valentine's Day suggest that it was posted on Saturday night.

Canal+ columnist Pierre Menes tweeted that Aurier was "going to deny the claims and take legal action concerning the falsification of a video".

### EPL TOP FOUR

Team	G	W	L	D	Pts
Leicester	26	15	8	3	53
Tottenham	26	14	9	3	51
Arsenal	26	15	6	5	51
Man City	26	14	5	7	47

## Shamima's bout with history

### Women's kabaddi team in final

SPORTS REPORTER from Guwahati



Despite being technically knocked out from the ring, Bangladeshi boxer Shamima Akter had a big smile on her face as she hugged five-time world amateur champion Mary Kom at the end of the semifinal fight in 48-51kg category of the South Asian Games at the SAI-SAG Centre in Shillong yesterday.

There was no doubt about Shamima's defeat at the hands of Olympic bronze medalist Mary Kom; the question was how many minutes the 17-year-old could stand against the 32-year-old boxer. The class-IX student from Jessore fought for nearly four minutes before expressing her unwillingness to continue, with 14 seconds left to end of the second round.

Shamima, who started playing boxing in 2014 and confirmed her semifinal against Mary after getting a bye in the first match, was totally defensive against Mary, who often instigated the

Bangladeshi girl to punch her but the 17-year-old could hardly dare to remove her hands from her face.

"I was not afraid of her rather I wanted to play full four rounds without thinking about the result," said Shamima over phone from Shillong.

"I have never played against a south-paw boxer before facing Mary Kom. That's why I had to keep my hands on the face and I could not connect my punches on her. I am not used to facing punches from a southpaw boxer. I wanted to continue but it was not possible," added Shamima.

Shamima, however, became the first Bangladeshi female boxer to win a medal from her first international appearance. Both losing semifinalists in the 48-51kg category have been awarded bronze medals.

Basona Khandoker lost against Andarawee Nilanthi of Sri Lanka in the semifinal of the 69-75kg category while SA Games gold medalist Abdur Rahim and Ohiduzzaman suffered defeat against their Afghan and Bhutanese opponents in the semifinals of 69kg and 56kg categories. Bangladesh won a total of four bronze medals from box-

ing. Last edition at home, Bangladesh had won two gold medals, one silver and two bronze medals.

While the Bangladeshi female boxers created a little piece of history, the women's kabaddi team confirmed their final berth after a nail-biting 18-16 point win over Sri Lanka to at least ensure a silver medal, which they had won in last edition.

Bangladesh team will play today's final against India, who defeated Nepal 45-15 in the first semifinal.

Bangladesh reached the final despite being stunned to a 14-28 defeat by Sri Lanka in the first match of the group, but the girls yesterday showed their mettle to lead from the beginning.

"We were under pressure but were confident about beating Sri Lanka. We have learned from the previous defeat against them and utilised the experience today against them, who have improved much compared to our expectation," said captain Shahnaj Parvin after the match.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh men's kabaddi team suffered a 9-29 points defeat in the semifinal and retained the bronze medal they earned last edition.

## Foxes gunned down

AFP, London



Substitute Danny Welbeck scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner as Arsenal resurrected their Premier League title challenge with a heart-stopping 2-1 Valentine's Day victory over leaders Leicester City on Sunday.

Down to 10 men following Danny Simpson's 54th-minute dismissal, Leicester were clinging on at a tension-bound Emirates Stadium when Welbeck headed in a 95th-minute winner from Mesut Ozil's free-kick.

Welbeck's goal, after fellow substitute Theo Walcott had cancelled out Jamie Vardy's first-half penalty, saw Arsene Wenger's men complete a league double over Leicester.

Claudio Ranieri's men now have two weeks to regain their strength before resuming their improbable title bid at home to Norwich City, while Arsenal must prepare for contests with Hull City and Barcelona. Leicester went ahead as half-time drew, Vardy luring Nacho Monreal into a challenge and then tumbling to the ground before picking himself up and slotting his 19th goal of the season past Cech.

The two managers rearranged their teams for the final half hour, Ranieri sending on Marcin Wasilewski and Demarai Gray in place of Mahrez and Shinji Okazaki, Wenger

throwing on Walcott for Francis Coquelin.

It was the Arsenal change that was to prove telling, Walcott equalising nine minutes after coming on by side-footing home.

It was Arsenal's first shot on target and their attempts to register another proved fraught.

But with full-time beckoning, Welbeck rushed in to meet Ozil's free-kick with an unerring downward header, eclipsing Leicester's fairytale with one of his own.

At Villa Park, Liverpool ran riot in a 6-0 hammering of Aston Villa as the Premier League's bottom club went into meltdown.

Meanwhile, in the other big game of the day, Manchester City were deflated by an 84th minute Christian Eriksen strike as Tottenham Hotspur claimed the spoils at the Etihad.

Harry Kane calmly slotted home a 54th minute penalty. However, City were back in the game after star-kid Kelechi Iheanacho found the back of the net, but Eriksen's strike denied them any points.

### RESULTS

<b>Arsenal</b> Walcott 70, Welbeck 90+5	2 - 1	<b>Leicester</b> Vardy 45-pen
<b>Aston Villa</b>	0 - 6	<b>Liverpool</b> Sturridge 16, Milner 25, Can 58, Origi 63, Clyne 65, Toure 71
<b>Man City</b>	1 - 2	<b>Tottenham</b>



The Bangladesh women's kabaddi team players try to pounce on a Sri Lanka raider during their semifinal clash of the South Asian Games in Guwahati yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Women's handball team face India in final

SPORTS REPORTER from Guwahati



Bangladesh women's handball team set up a gold-medal deciding match against hosts India after handing a 33-28 defeat to Nepal in the second semifinal at the Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education ground in Sonapur, Guwahati yesterday.

The Bangladesh women hardly get any chance to play in international tournaments, but they proved their worth by reaching the final with an unbeaten record in their maiden appearance in the South Asian Games. And this feat is being considered as their best success even though Bangladesh had clinched the AHF Challenge Cup in Pakistan at an age-level tournament in 2014.

Bangladesh went into the semifinal match on the back-foot with injured goalkeeper Sushila standing under the bar following the departure of first-choice goalkeeper Shila Roy, who had to leave India due to the demise of her mother. Sushila was given injection to heal her pain and the goalkeeper was virtually the unsung heroine of the game as she thwarted a lot of attacks from Nepal.

Despite the feeble defence and poor attack, Bangladesh led the first half by 13-11 goals and coach Didar Hossain brought positional changes which worked well. Nishi and Shilpi were unstoppable as they scored eight goals each while Shirin, Dalia, Sumi and Khaleida scored six, five, four and two goals respectively.

"We have come to India with a target of reaching the final and it has been achieved. Now we are looking forward to winning the gold medal," said captain Shahida Khatun.

"There is nothing to be afraid of about India. We will be trying to deliver our best. Please pray for us so that we can hold the country's honour.

"It is bad luck for us not to get the main goalkeeper while the second goalkeeper has been suffering from an injury in her hand but we were confident of beating Nepal," added Shahida.

mix of youth and experience.

With most of the pressure off their back, the Indian batsmen did their job to bring up another T20 series' win after their 3-0 triumph in Australia recently.

Opener Shikhar Dhawan, who hit a maiden T20 fifty in the team's last win on Friday, continued his fine run with an unbeaten 46 to help the hosts register their biggest T20 win in terms of balls remaining.

It was Dhoni's first T20 bi-lateral series win on home soil as the World Twenty20 hosts hammered home their status as one of the favourites for the title in March.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA:** 82 all out in 18 overs (Shanaka 19, Perera 12; Ashwin 4-8, Jadeja 2-20)

**INDIA:** 84 for 1 in 13.5 overs (Sharma 13, Dhawan 46 not out, Rahane 22 not out; Chameera 1-14)

**Result:** India won by 9 wickets and clinched the 3-match series 2-1.

**Player-of-the-match:** R Ashwin  
**Player-of-the-series:** R Ashwin

## India clinch series

AFP, Visakhapatnam



Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's four-wicket haul helped India crush Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the third T20 international as the hosts clinched the series 2-1 in Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

Electing to bowl on what seemed like a flat deck, Ashwin managed his best bowling figures in T20 cricket to skittle out the visitors for 82 in 18 overs -- their lowest score in the shortest format.

Chasing a modest target, India cantered home in 13.5 overs to hold on to their top spot in T20s and continue their winning run before the Asia Cup and the World T20.

It was India's night all the way after Ashwin, who was given the new ball by skipper MS Dhoni, struck twice in the very first over to remove the Sri Lankan openers.

Already fielding a depleted side, the visiting batsmen struggled against a disciplined Indian attack, which had the right

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