

**SONYESP**  
Copa America  
Brazil v Ecuador  
Live from 8:00am

Jamaica v Venezuela  
3:00am (Monday)  
Mexico v Uruguay  
Live from 6:00am (Monday)

**TEN 1 HD & TEN 3**  
Tri-nation series 2nd ODI  
West Indies v Australia  
Live from 10:45pm

**NEO PRIME**  
French Open Finals  
Day 15 Men's  
Live from 7:00pm

**Green Delta Premier Div Hockey**  
Usha KC v Azad SC  
Time: 2:00pm

Dhaka Wanderers v Railway SC  
Time: 4:00pm  
Venue: Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium

# Rupganj, Victoria thru' to Super League

## Mash's KKC continue winning

SPORTS REPORTER

Soumya Sarkar's Legends of Rupganj and Mominul Haque's Victoria Sporting Club sealed their places in the Super League by winning their respective round 10 games yesterday. On the other hand, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led Kalabagan Krira Chakra shocked Mushfiqur Rahim's Mohammedan to stay in the hunt for a spot in the Super League.

With one more round to go before the Super League, only three teams have confirmed their places. Apart from Rupganj and Victoria, Nasir Hossain's Prime Doleshwar are also through. While Doleshwar currently top the table with 14 points, Rupganj and Victoria have 13 each.

Mohammedan and Tamim Iqbal-led Abahani are placed fourth and fifth respectively with 12 points each, while Anamul Haque's Gazi Group Cricketers, Sabbir Rahman's Prime Bank Cricket Club, Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Mahmudullah Riyad's Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club have ten points each.

With one more round to go, Abahani and Mohammedan face must-win encounters. If they win, they are through. At the same time, all the teams on ten points also have a chance to make it to the Super League.

The shocker of the day yesterday took place in Fatullah when Mohammedan lost to Kalabagan Krira Chakra despite making 290. Mohammedan rode on their foreign recruit Bipul Sharma's maiden one-day 100 and Mushfiqur's 75 to post a decent score.

However, Kalabagan's batsmen

easily chased down the total courtesy of their youngsters. Tasamul Haque scored a career best 126 whereas Hasanuzzaman, playing only his fifth List A game hammered eight sixes and four fours to hit 93 off 58 balls. They reached home in 43.1 overs.

A 170-run opening stand between Abdul Majed and Fazle Rabbi helped Victoria score an easy 112-run win over Brothers Union at Mirpur. While Majed hit a 117-ball 118, Fazle scored 71. They posted 302. After the exchange, Brothers were bundled out for 190 in 45.3 overs.

Playing without their banned skipper Mosharraf Hossain, Legends of Rupganj put in an inspiring performance to beat Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club by seven wickets. 22-year-old Nahidul Islam took two wickets and scored 92 to take them home in 32.5 overs.

## MSC go top

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club joined defending champions Abahani at the top of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League table after a 4-3 goal win over Bangladesh Sporting Club at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Black and Whites took a comfortable 3-0 lead in the first half, thanks to a goal each from Kamruzzaman Rana, Asaduzzaman Chandan and Salman Hossain before Taswar Abbasi added a fourth two minutes into the second half. However, Bangladesh Sporting Club staged a brilliant comeback, with Belal Hossain striking on the 50th minute followed by two late goals from Prince. But the Black and Whites held on to their slender lead to victory, which took them to 17 points from seven games and put them alongside Abahani.

Usha KC, however, can reclaim the top position when they take on Azad Sporting Club today.

Meanwhile, in the second match yesterday, Ajax SC edged past Sadharan Bima with a 2-1 goal victory.

## Colombia crush USA

AFP, Santa Clara

Colombia wrecked the United States' hopes of a winning start to the Copa America Centenario as goals from James Rodriguez and Cristian Zapata gave the South Americans a comfortable 2-0 victory here Friday.

AC Milan's Zapata and Real Madrid star Rodriguez struck in the first half before a sell-out 67,439 crowd at the Levi's Stadium in northern California to puncture American hopes of emerging from a difficult Group A.

US coach Jurgen Klinsmann's side had hoped to score an upset victory to emulate the Americans' famous defeat of Colombia at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.



Spain's Garbine Muguruza poses with the French Open trophy after winning the women's final against Serena Williams at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

# Garbine stuns Serena

## Wins her maiden Grand Slam title

AFP, Paris

Garbine Muguruza won her first Grand Slam title at the French Open on Saturday defeating top seed and defending champion Serena Williams in the final.

Twelve years younger than the American at 22, and playing in the first claycourt final of her career, the Venezuelan-born Spaniard upset the odds to win 7-5, 6-4.

She is the first Spanish woman to win a Grand Slam title since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in Paris in 1998 and she is the third straight first time Grand Slam winner after Flavia Pennetta at last year's US Open and Angelique Kerber at the Australian Open.

"I am so excited to play the final of a Grand Slam against one of the best ever players. It's the perfect final and I am so happy," she said.

"I grew up on clay so for Spain and me this is just amazing.

"Serena is a very powerful player and I just tried to fight as hard as I can."

For Williams it was a second straight loss in a Grand Slam final and it wrecked her hopes once again of winning a 22nd Grand Slam title to draw level with Steffi Graf for most wins in the Open era, since 1968.

She will now turn her focus on Wimbledon where she will be the defending champion and a six-time former winner.

"Congratulations to Garbine, she played really well today," said Williams, who confirmed that she had been slightly troubled by an adductor problem.

"I could have served better, made a lot of errors on return, but I did try hard out there."

The players took contrasting routes to

get to the final.

Fourth seed Muguruza breezed through, losing just the one set, in her opening match, while Williams struggled past the quarter- and semi-finals amid talk of an injury or illness.

But with weather conditions improving after one of the rainiest Roland Garros tournaments on record, it was a different, more focussed Williams that got the final underway with a love service game.

Muguruza replied in kind as two of the biggest and best servers in the women's game went head to head.

The 22-year-old Spaniard had to battle hard to level at 2-2, saving two break points along the way, but she then grabbed the first break of the final thanks to a loose game from the American culminating in a double fault.

Muguruza, who lost to Williams in the Wimbledon final last year, moved 4-2 ahead, but she lost her range two games later to allow the American to level the score.

The tall Spaniard was matching Williams for power and when the title-holder opened the 11th game with a double fault she seized the opportunity to apply some added pressure on her opponent.

Her tactics paid off with Williams failing to cope with a series of explosive baseline groundstrokes.

Muguruza's second break of the final allowed her to serve for the set and she duly managed that staving off two break-back points along the way.

A top quality first set had taken 56 minutes with Muguruza winning 41 points to 40 for Williams underlining the closeness of the contest.

| SCORES IN BRIEF  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>SHEIKH JAMAL DC:</b> 184 all out in 45 overs (Nazmus 41, Riyad 35; Tajjul 3-29, Murad 3-48, Nahidul 2-38) | <b>Result:</b> Rupganj won by seven wickets.  | <b>Result:</b> Kalabagan won by six wickets.   |
| <b>LEGENDS OF RUPGANJ:</b> 185 for 3 in 32.5 overs (Nahidul 92, Junaid 53; Abdur 1-17, Masud 1-24)           | <b>MOHAMMEDAN:</b> 290 for 6 (Bipul 100, Mushfiqur 75; Dewan 3-75, Tanveer 1-23)  | <b>VICTORIA:</b> 302 for 9 (Majed 118, Fazle 71; Nabil 4-50)                             |
|  | <b>KALABAGAN KC:</b> 291 for 4 in 43.1 overs (Tasamul 126 not out, Hasanuzzaman 95, Tanveer 52 not out; Naem 2-35, Nazmul 1-31) | <b>BROTHERS UNION:</b> 190 all out in 45.3 overs (Tushar 93; Mahbulul 3-33, Kamrul 2-25) |
|  |   | <b>Result:</b> Victoria won by 112 runs.   |



Kalabagan Krira Chakra's Tasamul Haque is over the moon after scoring his first one-day century. He went on to smack an unbeaten 126 and lead his side to a crucial win over Mohammedan at Fatullah yesterday.

## EURO 2016 COUNTDOWN 5 DAYS TO GO

# Aiming to banish 2014 WC failure

REUTERS, Barcelona

For all Vicente del Bosque's confidence that he has the right balance of experience and youth to return Spain to their familiar place on the winner's rostrum, questions remain about his best starting line-up ahead of Euro 2016.

On the surface, Spain's qualifying record of nine wins out of 10 going into the tournament looks impressive but they rarely delivered performances to suggest they could pick up a third successive title or banish the memories of their 2014 World Cup failure.

No-one will be keener to prove the doubters wrong than Del Bosque in what looks to be his last hurrah as Spain's coach. Once again he can call on trusted stalwarts Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets, Gerard Pique, Sergio Ramos and Cesc Fabregas, all regulars before or since the 2010 World Cup triumph, this time blending them with a new generation of young players such as Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea, Atletico Madrid midfielder Koke and Juventus striker Alvaro Morata.

"I really believe in the veterans who have spent a long time with us and we trust the newcomers, who give the squad impulse and fresh blood," said Del Bosque.

"Our objective is to think beyond the two European Championships we've won, because people are only going to value what we do in the next one."

Another triumph will require a settled spine to his team, yet there remains uncertainty over who will start as central striker and in goal, where the manager must decide whether to demote Iker Casillas in favour of

De Gea, whose consistently outstanding performances in the last three seasons contrast with the long-standing captain's waning powers.

Up front, the situation is equally fluid. After leaving out Diego Costa and Paco Alcacer -- top scorer in qualifying -- Del Bosque is likely to opt for Morata as first-choice striker, although he made just 16 league starts for Juventus.

Athletic Bilbao striker Ariz Aduriz is in the form of his life at the age of 35 and scored more goals than any other Spaniard



in the campaign but there are doubts about whether his physical, direct style fits in with Spain's possession game.

At the back there remains an alarming lack of depth to cover for Sergio Ramos, who appears to have hit form at the right time after an inconsistent season, and Gerard Pique, who arrives on the back of another brilliant campaign with Barcelona.

Injury to either would be a major headache because the inclusion of Barcelona's Marc Bartra, who has played relatively little first-team football this season, suggests experienced cover is not at hand.

# FED CUP DRAW HELD

## Group B billed as the toughest

SPORTS REPORTER



Group B of the upcoming Federation Cup has been dubbed as the 'group of death' as three domestic giants -- Sheikh Russel KC, Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Chittagong Abahani -- were pit against each other when the draw was held at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) House yesterday.

With only the standings of the Premier League of last season and the promotion to top-tier taken into consideration while seeding the teams, Sheikh Russel KC, who finished second in the premier league last season, found themselves against last edition's runners-up Muktiyoddha Sangsad and this year's Independence Cup champions Chittagong Abahani for two places into the quarterfinals.

However, the other groups have been relatively less tricky as two-time defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club found Brothers Union and Uttar Baridhara Club as group-mates in Group C. Archrivals Abahani and Mohammedan were also kept apart, with the Sky Blues drawn in group A against Feni Soccer and Arambagh KS while the Black and Whites are in Group D with Team BJMC and Rahmatganj MFS as their early competitors.

Starting on June 10, the group phase of the 12-team competition will run up to June 15 with each day featuring two games. The final will be held on June 26. All the matches will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka.

The draw ceremony was preceded by logo unveiling and sponsors' introduction programmes where BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy, vice-president Mohiuddin Mohi, general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, representatives of the participating clubs and additional director of sponsors RB Group, FM Iqbal Bin Anwar Dawn, were present.

Dawn declared that the top goal-scorer and the best player of the competition will receive LED TV sets from Walton while there will be home appliances on offer for man-of-the-match award winners of each match.

| GROUPS  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Group A</b><br>Abahani<br>Feni Soccer<br>Arambagh KS | <b>Group B</b><br>Sheikh Russel KC<br>Muktiyoddha SKC<br>Ctg Abahani | <b>Group C</b><br>Sheikh Jamal DC<br>Brothers Union<br>Uttar Baridhara | <b>Group D</b><br>Mohammedan SC<br>Team BJMC<br>Rahmatganj MFS |

## Messi arrives for Copa

AFP, San Jose

Lionel Messi touched down in California on Friday as Argentina prepared for the possibility that the injured Barcelona superstar may not be fit for next week's Copa America Centenario showdown with Chile.

Messi arrived in the early hours from Barcelona, where on Thursday he had appeared in court to give evidence in his tax fraud trial which has also embroiled his father.

Messi, who suffered a back injury in a friendly victory against Honduras last week, is uncertain to be fit for Monday's crucial Group D game against Chile at the Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara.

The 28-year-old playmaker later took to the field during training near Argentina's San Jose base. Messi trained separately from the rest of the squad along with another injured player Lucas Biglia.

Meanwhile teammates Augusto Fernandez and Nahuel Guzman admitted Friday that Argentina were facing up to the possibility of Messi's absence against the Chileans.

"It is logical that being the best player in the world it is clear that we all want him to be fit," Atletico Madrid midfielder Fernandez said, adding that he was confident the squad would cope against the Chileans if Messi was ruled out.

# Novak, Andy set for blockbuster

AFP, Paris



Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray meet in a seventh Grand Slam final on Sunday with the clock ticking on their French Open title aspirations.

World number one Djokovic, the winner of 11 majors, is bidding for a first French Open to become just the eighth man to complete the career Grand Slam.

Victory on Sunday would also give him the 'Novak Slam' as he already holds the Wimbledon, US and Australian Open titles.

But the 29-year-old has lost all three finals he has made in Paris.

Murray, also 29 and a rival of Djokovic since their junior days, has previously fallen three times at the semi-final stages.

The last British man to win in Paris was Fred Perry in 1935 while Bunny Austin was the last finalist from his country in 1937.

"It's obviously a very big match for both of us. Novak trying to win the career slam and me trying to win my first French Open," said Murray, aware that even Roger Federer needed 11 visits to Paris to win his first and only French Open.

| FINAL H2H                         |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| <b>DJOKOVIC (1) V MURRAY (2)</b>  |     |
| Head to Head (Overall) Played: 33 | 23  |
| Head to Head on Clay Played: 5    | 4   |
| FRENCH OPEN 2016 STATS            |     |
| 19 Sets Played                    | 24  |
| 1 Sets Lost                       | 6   |
| 40 Return Games Won               | 30  |
| 14 Aces                           | 48  |
| 193 Winners                       | 238 |

## IELTS

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