

CHANNEL 9 & SONY SIX
Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Comilla Victorians v Barisal Bulls
 Live from 2:30pm
 Dhaka Dynamites v Rajshahi Kings
 Live from 7:15pm

BOISHAKHI TV
Bangladesh Premier League
 Ctg Abahani v Sk Russel
 Live from 3:00pm
STAR SPORTS 1
 India v England

First Test, Day 3
 Live from 10:00am
SONY SIX
FIFA World Cup Qualifiers
 Armenia v Montenegro
 Live from 11:00pm

England v Scotland
 Live from 1:45am (Saturday)
SONY ESPN
FIFA World Cup Qualifiers
 France v Sweden
 Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

SONY ESPN HD
FIFA World Cup Qualifiers
 Romania v Poland
 Live from 1:45am (Saturday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Comilla Victorians v Barisal Bulls
 Time: 2:30pm

Dhaka Dynamites v Rajshahi Kings
 Time: 7:15pm
 Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

Bangladesh Premier League
 Ctg Abahani v Sk Russel
 Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh



Rahmatganj striker Siyo Zunapio shoots at Sheikh Jamal goal during their JB Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Rafiquddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

PHOTO: BFF

Rahmatganj sink Sheikh Jamal

SPORTS REPORTER



Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society broke their three-match losing streak and returned to the third position on the JB Bangladesh Premier League table with a 1-0 victory against defending champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the Rafiquddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday. Siyo Zunapio scored the decisive goal in the 69th minute of the match to take the Old Dhaka outfit to 25 points from 14 outings.

On the other hand, the Dhanmondi giants lost more ground as they slipped to fourth position with 22 points in their account. Abahani lead the table with 29 points having played 13 matches so far.

The first match of the Mymensingh phase in the second leg proved to be a tight affair, with little difference between the two sides and little in terms of goal mouth action. The Old Dhaka outfit held the three-time champions to a 1-1 draw in the first leg and had their fair share of possession and attacks in the first half, yet failed to make any

impact on the scoreline.

However, the introduction of midfielder Sohel Rana in the second half injected life into Rahmatganj's attacks and after threatening the Sheikh Jamal goal a couple of times, the surprise package of the season got a deserved breakthrough. Zunapio forced a brilliant save from Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Mazharul Islam Himel when the Congolese forward's volley from the edge of the box was palmed away for a corner in the 68th minute. The resulting corner brought the breakthrough as Faisal Ahmed's curling kick was headed towards goal by Didarul Alam, which Himel could only parry softly. The ball, however, hit defender Mohammad Linkon and fell in front of goal, with an unmarked Zunapio comfortably poking it in for his sixth goal of the campaign.

Sheikh Jamal came close to equalising when Landing Darboe's dipping free-kick left Rahmatganj goalkeeper Mohammad Al Amin flatfooted, only for the ball to hit the crossbar. Sheikh Jamal coach Joshimuddin Joshi made a number of attacking substitutions but the Old Dhaka outfit held firm to snatch a win after three consecutive defeats.

Siddikur's decent start in Manila

SPORTS REPORTER

Golfer Siddikur Rahman made a decent start to the Resorts World Manila Masters event yesterday with a four-under-par (68) which put him tied for 26th at the end of the first round. The 31-year-old golfer carded four birdies -- three of those coming in at the back nine -- and went bogey free at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club on Thursday.

With quite a few golfers notching excellent scores on the opening day, the top half of the leaderboard is extremely jammed, with five golfers sharing the lead at eight-under-par and five further golfers sharing the second position.

France lose Coman

AFP, Paris

Kingsley Coman has been ruled out injured with Thomas Lemar getting his first France callup for Friday's 2018 World Cup qualifier against Sweden, the French football federation confirmed on Thursday.

Coman picked up the injuries during training.

Rooney set to start

AFP, Burton-on-Trent



England captain Wayne Rooney will return to the starting line-up for his country's 2018 World Cup qualifier against Scotland on Friday, interim manager Gareth Southgate announced on Thursday.

Rooney, 31, started on the bench in England's last game, a 0-0 draw away to Slovenia, after losing his place in Manchester United's starting XI.

But he has started United's last two games, scoring from range in their 2-1 Europa League defeat at Fenerbahce last week, and will win his 119th cap from the start against Scotland at Wembley.

"He's confident and I think experience in a game like this is important," Southgate told reporters at the St George's Park football centre in Burton-on-Trent, central England.



"He's in a better place than he was for the last get-together in terms of his sharpness, his confidence. There was no hesitation to be playing him."

"He's playing well. He's played well in his last couple of matches for Manchester United. When he's in a rhythm of playing, that helps."

Rooney takes the captain's armband back from Liverpool midfielder Jordan Henderson, who Southgate confirmed will start.

Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane is also in contention to start after proving his fitness in training following his comeback from a seven-week lay-off with an ankle ligament injury.

Southgate said he had a fully fit squad to

choose from and all 25 players at his disposal were present at the pre-match training session.

England are top of UEFA qualifying Group F after three games, two points above Lithuania and Slovenia and three points clear of old rivals Scotland.

England host Spain in a friendly on Tuesday, for what will be the last game of Southgate's four-match stint following the departure of previous manager Sam Allardyce.

British newspaper reports suggest Southgate will be given the role full-time provided England avoid embarrassment against Scotland, but he said he did not feel any pressure.

"I'm really enjoying being in the role," said the former England Under-21 coach.

"What happens to me is not important. We've got to win this game for the country and to be top of the group, heading to (World Cup hosts) Russia."

"That's the task I was given. What happens to me is important to my family, but it's not the reason and the focus for the game."

"I want the players to go out, enjoy their football and play well, and I'm sure they will."

Southgate was reluctant to declare an interest in taking on the role full-time, but FA chief executive Martin Glenn is hopeful he will put his name forward.

"We get through the next two games and then we are going to put our heads together, talk to Gareth and really understand what his level of interest is in the role," Glenn told reporters at the Sport Industry Breakfast Club in London.

'No one worth 100 million'

AFP, Rome



Italy midfielder Marco Verratti categorically dismissed the possibility of him leaving Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday and insisted that no player was worth 100 million euros (\$108.9 million).

The 24-year-old has regularly been the subject of media reports linking him with a move away from Paris, with Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Juventus all said to be chasing his signature.

"They say that I'm worth 100 million euros? I think no one is worth that much. It's an exaggerated figure for everybody," said Verratti, ahead of Saturday's 2018 World Cup qualifier in Liechtenstein.

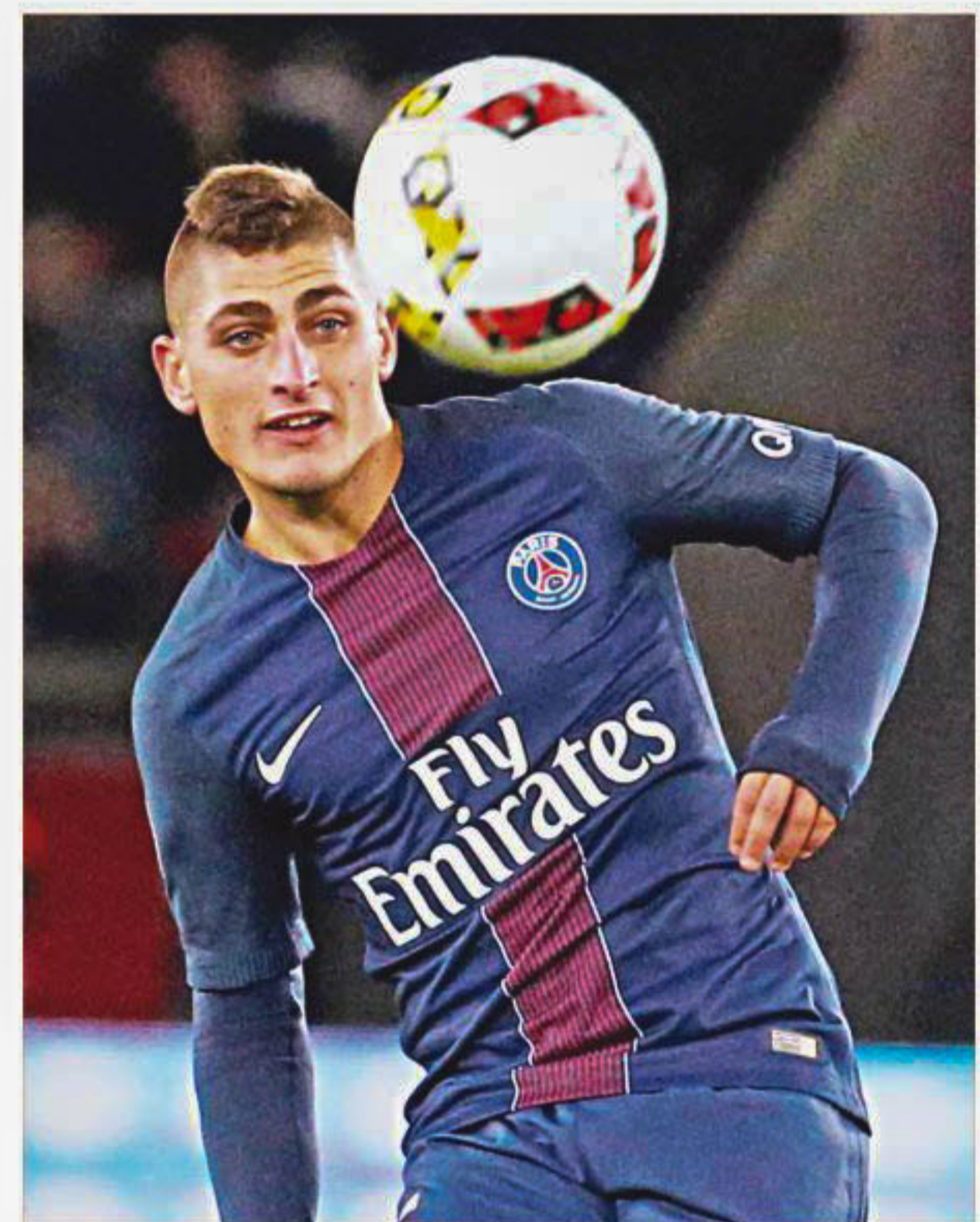
"I even think it's bad to know that you play in a team which spent more than 100 million euros for you. I'm thinking of (Manchester United midfielder Paul) Pogba who, because of this number, must always show he can win a game on his own."

"It's not normal and I don't believe to be worth this type of sum," he repeated.

Verratti has helped PSG to four successive French league titles since joining from hometown club Pescara in 2012, but he said he has no desire to move on just yet.

"I'm flattered by the interest because it means I've done good things. But I'm thinking of winning as much as possible with PSG, of getting as far as possible in the Champions League."

"There's a project in Paris and I feel part of it. I feel like being in a family and that's why I don't want to leave."



Italy and Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti.

David v Goliath clash

AFP, Serravalle



World champions Germany face minnows San Marino in a 2018 World Cup qualifier with a true David verses Goliath match-up on Friday.

Germany take on fellow European power-houses Italy in Milan next Tuesday in a friendly, their last international of the year, but before the Azzurri, the Germans look destined to clinch three more qualifying points against tiny San Marino.

The landlocked mountainous microstate in North Italy has a population of just 33,400 and it's football team is ranked 199 places below second-placed Germany by football's governing body FIFA.

Despite a mounting injury list, anything less than a convincing win would be unacceptable to the four-time World Cup winners.

Germany top Group C with a perfect record of nine points from three wins, eight goals scored and zero conceded.

At the bottom of the table, San Marino's part-timers have lost all three games, conceding nine goals and scoring just once, when Mattia Stefanelli netted in last month's 4-1 defeat in Norway to be nicknamed 'The Legend'.

"It was a great feeling to score a goal for my national team, I dreamed about doing it since I was a kid," said the 23-year-old, who netted San Marino's first goal in a World Cup qualifier since 2001.

The qualifier will be played at Serravalle's Stadio Olimpico, which has a capacity of just 7,000, where Germany beat San Marino 13-0 in

2006 -- an away record for die Mannschaft -- and Stefanelli can expect few chances.

"Nothing is impossible," he said. "We will have to fight until the last minute to hope for an opportunity."

"It's something unique and a great opportunity to face the world champions, we have to enjoy it."

Previous results suggest a tough night for the hosts.

Germany romped to a 6-0 home win in 2007, when the teams last met, a year after that 13-0 rout when Lukas Podolski scored four goals.

German bookmakers Bwin are offering the lowest possible odds for a Germany win, as well as 4-1 for die Mannschaft scoring ten goals or more, with 51-1 for a San Marino win and 16-1 for a draw.

The Germans want to preserve their perfect record on the road to Russia already beaten Norway, the Czech Republic and Northern Ireland.

"The last qualifying match of the year is just as serious as the three previous games, so we do not want to be arrogant in San Marino," said Loew before boarding Wednesday's flight to Rimini.

"We'll be highly concentrated and serious in our task."

"It's our duty to get a clear win in San Marino and to extend our lead in the table."

However, Germany have injury woes with captain Manuel Neuer, Toni Kroos, Jerome Boateng and Mesut Ozil missing from their first-choice line-up.

Kroos has a fractured foot, Boateng has injured the groin and knee in his right leg and Neuer has a virus.

Ozil has been rested for the trip while forwards Julian Draxler and Julian Brandt

Netherlands, Belgium play out a draw

AFP, Amsterdam

The Netherlands and Belgium played out a 1-1 friendly draw Wednesday where Premier League stars Kevin de Bruyne and Eden Hazard struggled and the Dutch suffered injury setbacks ahead of a key World Cup qualifier.

A penalty from Davy Klaassen gave the Dutch a 38th-minute lead from the penalty spot before Yannick Carrasco levelled eight minutes from the final whistle.

It was the 126th meeting between the two neighbours whose fortunes are seemingly headed in different directions.

The Dutch failed to make the finals of Euro 2016 and are labouring in their pursuit of a place at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

They are in third spot in their qualifying Group A, three points back from France and Sweden.

Belgium, with former Everton boss Roberto Martinez at the helm, lead Group H with three wins in three outings.



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