

**CHANNEL 9 & SONY SIX**  
**Bangladesh Premier League T20**  
 Chittagong Vikings v Khulna Titans  
 Live from 2:00pm  
 Rangpur Riders v Dhaka Dynamites  
 Live from 7:00pm

**BOISHAKHI TV**  
**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Soccer Club Feni v Mohammedan  
 Live from 3:00pm  
**STAR SPORTS 1**  
 India v England

**First Test, Day 4**  
 Live from 10:00am  
**STAR SPORTS 2**  
 Australia v South Africa  
 Second Test, Day 1  
 Live from 5:30am

**SONY SIX**  
**FIFA World Cup Qualifiers**  
 Croatia v Iceland  
 Live from 11:00pm  
 Spain v Macedonia  
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

**SONY ESPN HD**  
**FIFA World Cup Qualifiers**  
 Georgia v Moldova  
 Live from 11:00pm  
 Wales v Serbia  
 Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League T20**  
 Chittagong Vikings v Khulna Titans  
 Time: 2:00pm

Rangpur Riders v Dhaka Dynamites  
 Time: 7:00pm  
 Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
 Soccer Club Feni v Mohammedan  
 Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh



CONTRASTING EMOTIONS: (L) A dejected Argentina superstar Lionel Messi hides his face as (R) Brazil talisman Neymar (C) celebrates his goal with teammates Philippe Coutinho (L) and Gabriel Jesus during their 2018 World Cup qualifier in Belo Horizonte on Thursday.

PHOTOS: AFP

# Neymar outshines Messi

## Argentina struggling after loss to Brazil

AFP, Montevideo

Neymar scored his 50th international goal as Brazil thrashed Argentina 3-0 to tighten their grip on South America's 2018 World Cup qualification campaign and leave their arch-rivals struggling to reach the finals.

Barcelona superstar Neymar outshone club-mate Lionel Messi in Belo Horizonte - the venue where Brazil were humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the 2014 World Cup semifinals.

Argentina are outside of the qualifying places. But Messi insisted that the two-time World Cup winners could still get through to the Russia finals.

Neymar's landmark strike was sandwiched by a spectacular effort from Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho and a second-half finish from China-based midfielder Paulinho.

Brazil have now won five straight qualifying games under new coach Tite, who took over after Dunga was sacked in June because of Brazil's failure to get out of the Copa America Centenario group stage.

Brazil now have 24 points from 11 games, one clear of second-placed Uruguay who have 23 points.

The Brazilians are six points clear of

third-placed Colombia and seven points clear of Ecuador and Chile, who are level on 17 points after 11 games.

Argentina languishing outside the qualifying places in sixth with 16 points.

The two-time world champions -- who have taken just two points from their past four qualifiers -- now face a crucial game at home to Colombia next Tuesday which they must win to avoid falling further off the pace.

"We're down but we're still alive," Argentina captain Messi said. "We have to forget the situation we're in and start thinking about Colombia. If we get a result against Colombia it will make things look a lot different."

Argentina manager Edgardo Bauza admitted he had not expected to lose so heavily.

"It's a hard defeat. I did not think we would lose 3-0, I thought it would be an even game," Bauza said. "But when they got their second it was all over."

Uruguay meanwhile stayed firmly on Brazil's shoulder with a 2-1 defeat of Ecuador at Montevideo's Estadio Centenario.

The Uruguayans took the lead on 12 minutes when former Liverpool defender Sebastian Coates bundled in a corner from close range for his first international goal.

Espanyol striker Felipe Caicedo then

RESULTS	
Colombia 0	Chile 0
Uruguay 2 (Coates 12, Rolan 45)	Ecuador 1 (Caicedo 44)
Paraguay 1 (Riveros 9)	Peru 4 (Ramos 48, Flores 71, Cueva 78, Benitez 84-og)
Brazil 3 (Coutinho 25, Neymar 45, Paulinho 59)	Argentina 0
Venezuela 5 (Koufatti 3, Martinez 11, 67, 70, Otero 75)	Bolivia 0

rounded off a sweeping Ecuador counter-attack to equalise just before half-time.

But Uruguay responded immediately, Diego Rolan stabbing home a low finish on the stroke of half-time to restore the home side's lead.

Elsewhere, Copa America Centenario champions Chile had captain and goalkeeper Claudio Bravo to thank for a hard-earned point in a 0-0 draw against Colombia in Barranquilla.

The Chileans, missing injured Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez, needed two superb saves from Bravo to keep Colombia at bay in a gritty game played in sweltering conditions.

Bravo's display was tempered by an injury which forced the Manchester City goalkeeper off the field midway through the second half.

The stopper produced two fine blocks to deny Oscar Murillo and Miguel Borja

as Colombia were struggled to break the deadlock.

Colombia's Argentinian coach Jose Pekerman bemoaned a lack of precision in front of goal but was buoyed by the return of talismanic striker Radamel Falcao, who was introduced as a half-time substitute.

"We tried everything and we had chances but we lacked precision," Pekerman said.

"But the most important fact of the game was the return of Falcao."

In other games, Paraguay suffered a 4-1 mauling against Peru in Asuncion to derail their qualification campaign.

Paraguay took an early lead through Cristian Riveros after nine minutes but Peru hit back with second-half goals from Christian Ramos, Edison Flores, Christian Cueva and an Edgar Benitez own goal to run out convincing winners.

Paraguay coach Francisco Arce attempted to put a positive spin on his team's loss.

"We're still in the race to qualify," Arce said. "We don't think we're dead, we just need to pick ourselves up and get on with it," he added.

Paraguay, who are two points outside the qualifying positions, face Bolivia away in their next game.

Venezuela meanwhile scored their first win of the qualifiers with a 5-0 thrashing at home to Bolivia, with Josef Martinez scoring a hat-trick.

# Sk Russel hold Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



Chittagong Abahani missed an opportunity to reach the top of the JB Bangladesh Premier League table as they were held to a goalless draw by struggling giants Sheikh Russel KC at the Rafiquddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

The big-spenders from the port city, who won the first leg 2-1, had more possession and shots on target in the first half, but came under heavy pressure on the other side of the beach.

Chittagong Abahani skipper Zahid Hossain forced an excellent save from Sheikh Russel's veteran goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee on the 24th minute. The best chance of the first half was wasted by Chittagong Abahani's Haitian striker Lionel Saint Preux, who rounded up Biplob but saw his goalbound attempt cleared off the line by defender Ahmed Said Hassan.

The second half saw an increase in tempo by Sheikh Russel, who just got off the foot of the table with a 2-0 victory over Rahmatganj in their previous fixture. New recruit Sebastian proved to be a handful for the Chittagong Abahani defence, and had his powerful attempt from the edge of the box in the 65th minute not hit the right-hand post, the champion hopefuls might have found themselves in real trouble. Sheikh Russel wasted a couple of half-baked chances towards the end as both teams shared the spoils of an entertaining draw.

The draw kept Chittagong Abahani in second position with 28 points, one point behind Dhaka Abahani who have played a match more, while Sheikh Russel remain third from bottom with 12 points.

# FIFA plans to close loss-making museum

AFP, Zurich

FIFA plans to close its loss-making \$142 million World Football Museum, a landmark project of ousted president Sepp Blatter, which was only opened eight months ago, a FIFA source said Friday.

While football's world body denied any immediate closure, it estimated a loss of more than \$30 million for 2016 and said the FIFA Council will hold talks on the museum's future at a January meeting.

According to the FIFA source, "the museum's new director told staff on Tuesday that FIFA has decided to close the museum."

The museum, which cost 140 million Swiss francs (130 million euros/\$142 million), was opened in Zurich in February by

FIFA president Gianni Infantino just after he took over from the disgraced Blatter.

Infantino has since ordered widespread cost-cutting at FIFA.

The 3,000 square metre museum has had an average of 11,000 visitors a month, way below its target figure.

Signs of trouble emerged in October when director Stefan Jost left because of "differences of view" over the museum's strategy.

FIFA said in a statement that it has set up a task force led by deputy secretary general Zvonimir Boban "to develop a sustainable business model for the World Football Museum."

"In-depth analysis conducted as part of FIFA's on-going restructuring showed that the museum will generate an estimated loss of approximately 30 million Swiss francs (28 million euros/\$30.4 million) in 2016.



# Coman out for the year

AFP, Berlin

German league leaders Bayern Munich on Friday confirmed Kingsley Coman will miss the rest of 2016 after injuring his knee and ankle on duty with France.

The 20-year-old was injured at the French training camp in Clairfontaine while preparing for Friday's 2018 World Cup qualifier at Paris' Stade de France against Sweden.

Bayern say a medical examination in Munich on Thursday revealed Coman has torn the cruciate ligament in his knee and ruptured the ankle capsule in his left leg.

He is expected to be out for two months.

Coman will miss Bayern's six remaining league games, plus their Champions League clashes at Russia's Rostov on November 23 and at home to Atletico Madrid on December 6, a match likely to decide the winner of Group D.

After missing the first two league games this season with an ankle injury, the French winger has struggled for form and has so far yet to play a full Bundesliga match.

# No poppy ban

AFP, London



Football global governing body FIFA insisted Friday it was a "distortion of the facts" to suggest they would punish British national associations determined to mark this weekend's World Cup qualifiers with poppy tributes.

Both England and Scotland pan to defy what they believe to be a FIFA ban on the wearing of poppies, a national symbol honouring war dead, when their teams meet at Wembley on Friday.

The latest edition of international football's oldest fixtures takes place on November 11 -- Armistice Day in Britain as it marks the anniversary of the end of the First World War on November 11, 1918.

Players wearing the poppy symbol on their shirts would appear to contravene FIFA regulations forbidding the display of messages considered to be commercial, personal, political or religious.

Officials at both England's Football Association and the Scottish Football Association have tried to find out just what sort of punishment they could face, amid fears of fines or even points deductions.

But a FIFA spokesperson told AFP on Friday it could only act on actual events.

"FIFA was recently contacted by the four British FAs (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) with specific requests related to the wearing of 'poppy symbols' by the players during the upcoming FIFA World Cup qualifying matches," said the spokesperson.

"FIFA's administration does not have the jurisdiction to take any such decision.

"The proper body tasked with ensuring the uniform application of the Laws of the Game is the independent disciplinary committee.

"FIFA's administration provided information to the four British FAs without making any judgements regarding their specific requests, so the perception that FIFA 'banned' anything is a distortion of the facts."

The spokesperson added: "Law Four was created by the International Football Association Board (made up of the four British FAs and FIFA) to provide an equal framework for all members by making it clear that players' equipment must be free of political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images."

Hours before Friday's kick-off at Wembley, a wreath of poppies was laid on the turf.

English FA chief executive Martin Glenn said Thursday: "A couple of weeks ago we told FIFA, in line with what he had agreed with them in 2011 (for a game with Spain) that we would wear armbands, not a poppy embedded in the shirt because FIFA have a law of the game that you cannot use political symbols on shirts."

"We had a row with them in 2011 and thought we had got over it. Unfortunately with the new personalities coming in they wanted to make a bit of a stand, which is very disappointing."

The Football Association of Wales announced Thursday they had ditched plans to go ahead with a similar poppy tribute to the one planned by their English and Scottish counterparts during Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Serbia in Cardiff amid fears of a fine or, arguably even worse, a points deduction by FIFA.

# Chelsea 'punishing' Mikel

AFP, Abuja

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr claims Mikel Obi is being "punished" by Premier League club Chelsea for playing at the Rio Olympics.

Mikel, 29, missed most of Chelsea pre-season as he helped his country win a bronze medal at the football event of the Summer Olympic Games.

He has yet to play for his London club this season even after he rejoined them in August.

Rohr was recently on a working visit to England and met with Chelsea officials.

"There is a reason why Mikel is not playing for Chelsea right now and that reason is because he played for Nigeria at the Olympics," Rohr said.

"I cannot punish a player who loves his country and shows that he loves the green jersey."

"I spoke about this with Mikel and the club's technical director (Michael Emenalo). Mikel is training very well and he plays games in training with the big players at Chelsea."