

# What to WATCH

Channel 9 & SONY SIX

**Bangladesh Premier League T20**  
Barisal Bulls v Rajshahi Kings  
Live from 2:00pm  
Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites  
Live from 7:00pm  
FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

Luxemburg v Netherlands

Live from 11:00pm  
Portugal v Latvia  
Live from 1:30am (Monday)  
**SONY SIX HD**  
FIFA World Cup Qualifiers  
Belgium v Estonia

Live from 1:30am (Monday)

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
England v India  
1st Test, Day 5  
Live from 10:00am  
Indian Super League  
Delhi v Kolkata

Live from 7:30pm

**STAR SPORTS 2**  
South Africa v Australia  
2nd Test, Day 3  
Live from 5:30am (Monday)

**SONY ESPN**

FIFA World Cup Qualifiers  
Switzerland v Faroe Islands  
Live from 11:00pm

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League T20**  
Barisal Bulls v Rajshahi Kings  
Time: 2:00pm

Comilla Victorians v Dhaka Dynamites  
Time: 7:00pm  
Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
Team BJMC v Dhaka Abahani  
Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Rafiq Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium, Mymensingh

## ITF JUNIOR TENNIS

### Rishabh, Jingyi claim singles titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Rishabh Sharda of India clinched the boys' singles title of the Walton 30th Bangladesh ITF Junior Tennis Championship beating Chan Woo Park of South Korea 6-4, 7-6 in the final at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Jingyi Wang of China clinched the girls' singles title beating Tanisha Kashyap of India 6-2, 6-2 earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, girls' top seed Katie LaFrance of the United States, who was surprisingly ousted from singles quarterfinals, made amends by winning the girls' doubles title. The 17-year-old American, who grabbed media spotlight ever since coming to Dhaka, paired up with Ji Min Park of South Korea to beat Chinese pair of Yujiao Che and Jingyi Wang in three sets in the final of the girls' doubles.

Indian pair of Gunjan Jadhav and Sachitt Sharmma lifted the boys' doubles title beating Korea's Daehnan Kim and Jonghun Lee in three sets (4-6, 6-4, 10-4).

## Siddikur steady in Manila

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman played a two-under-par (70) at the Resort World Manila Masters tournament in Philippines yesterday and at the end of the third round, moved up one place to the 44th position. The 31-year-old golfer exchanged one double bogey for four birdies as he took his aggregate tally for the event to seven-under-par (209) going into the final day of the one-million-dollar event.

The two-time Asian Tour winner started the day pretty well, racking up consecutive birdies on the eighth, ninth and tenth holes, but a double bogey on the eleventh saw him slip precariously down the leaderboard. However, the Bangladeshi golfer somewhat redeemed himself with a birdie in the final hole of the round to stay within nine strokes of the new leader, Sutijet Kooratanapisan of Thailand.

## Firework hits Lewandowski

AFP, Bucharest

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski was felled by a firework thrown from the crowd in a stormy World Cup clash on Friday but he had the last laugh, scoring twice in a 3-0 win over Romania.

Romanian fans threw the firework at the Bayern Munich star in the 53rd minute.

He needed medical treatment while referee Damir Skomina gathered the players from both sides inside the penalty area.

After play was briefly delayed, Lewandowski recovered to hit two late goals after 84 minutes and a last-gasp penalty.

On the terraces, fans from both countries launched flares at one another. Some thrown by home fans landed on the pitch, causing a delay just before the half-time mark.

Twelve Polish fans had already been arrested before the game after fighting in a city centre bar and clashes with police outside the stadium.

Around 4,000 police were mobilised for the high-risk game.

# Little Djokovic from India

ATIQUÉ ANAM



Rishabh Sharda of India has an uncanny resemblance with tennis great Novak Djokovic in terms of looks including his hairstyle, and perhaps more importantly, he seems to share the World No. 2's 'never-say-die' attitude.

The 16-year-old, who beat Korea's Chan Woo Park to grab the boys' singles title of the Walton 30th Bangladesh ITF Junior Tennis Championship yesterday, stole the spotlight from the other contenders even on the tournament's final day, which also saw the girls' singles, doubles and boys' doubles titles decided.

Rishabh admitted that people mention his resemblance with Djokovic a lot in his native land of Chandigarh and other parts of India. "Yes, I get that a lot," he replied with a wry smile after beat-

ing Chan Woo Park 6-4, 7-6 in a nerve-wracking final at the Ramna National Tennis complex.

The similarities became more and more apparent as the Chandigarh boy, currently ranked sixth at the under-16 level in India, kept pushing the Korean who is almost double his size.

At first, the crowd's attention turned to Rishabh due to his physique and hairstyle but as the game flung from one end to the other, his unyielding spirit came to the fore.

The early exchanges proved to be a nervy affair with both players failing to hold their serves for the first four games. Then things started to fall in place as both players picked up their game, but Rishabh seemed to have shaken off the early anxiety more so than his opponent. An exquisite crosscourt got the sparse crowd, Rishabh's father among them, on their feet as the Indian closed the set 6-4.

The second set had a slightly different pattern, with the Indian



RISHABH SHARDA

breaking early only to allow Park back into the game, taking the set to a tie-break. However, some powerful serves and hard-earned rallies saw Rishabh ace the tie-break, culminating into a ferocious chest thump, once again reminding everyone of the 29-year-old Serb.

"It's not as if I follow him [Djokovic] consciously, but since he is my idol and I like his style of play, I guess things look similar," Rishabh admitted gleefully.

While 12-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic comes from a sporting family, with tennis being very much in the blood, Rishabh's foray into tennis happened only by chance. In fact, the Indian preferred skating in school when one day a teacher suggested that he should try tennis as he had excellent footwork. That suggestion proved to be the best advice of his life as the youngster instantly made an impression in tennis before going on to impress his peers and Indian tennis authorities with numerous wins at home, following up with the singles and doubles titles of the Asian U-14 Tournament in Chandigarh three years ago.

Having come to Dhaka as the fourth seed, Rishabh didn't quite expect to win the title in his first overseas appearance, but he says that this victory might be the push he needed to make his dream come true. "I want to play like him [Djokovic] and improve day by day so that one day people will call me the next Djokovic."

## MSC held by Feni Soccer

SPORTS REPORTER



Fallen giants Mohammedan Sporting Club lost more ground in their mission to salvage a respectable finish in the JB Bangladesh Premier League as they were

held to a 1-1 draw by relegation threatened Feni Soccer Club at the Rafiquddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

The Black and Whites grabbed the lead early in the second half but all for naught as the margin was equalised just four minutes later. Hence with a tally of seven draws, five losses and two wins from 14 outings, they now sit on ninth position with 13 points. While on the other hand, Feni Soccer Club remains one point and place above table-sweepers Uttar Baridhara Club.

After a barren first half Mohammedan, using consistent pressure, broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute, with midfielder Mashuk Mia Jonny slotting it in from inside the box after collecting a through-pass from Ismail Bangoura.

Feni then stepped up the ante and almost drew one back a moment later when Twum Frank saw his free-kick come off the woodwork. But the south-eastern city side pressed on and were rewarded for their efforts in the 56th minute when Frank's assist from inside the box was clinically turned in by Uche Felix.

After which, both sides seemingly settled for a draw as no more threatening attacks were made.

# England sweep Scots away

## Germany destroy San Marino

AFP, Paris



England shrugged aside the potential ramifications of sanctions over poppy emblems Friday with a 3-0 Wembley win over Scotland to bring a 2018 World Cup berth a step closer.

A trio of headers from Liverpool pair Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana and Chelsea's Gary Cahill saw interim coach Gareth Southgate's side cruise home, the win consolidating England's leadership of Group F as they made it 10 points from four games.

For Southgate, who replaced newspaper sting victim Sam Allardyce following an opening away success in Slovakia, the three points were a welcome boost after a nervous draw in their previous outing in Slovenia.

Slovenia stayed in touch just two points behind the leaders after edging Malta 1-0 away while Slovakia are two points further back after whipping Lithuania 4-0.

The Scots meanwhile now trail England by six points, their hopes of snatching a place in the finals in Russia seemingly at an end as coach Gordon Strachan hangs on to his job by his fingernails.

While England and Scotland defied FIFA's opposition to symbols which might be seen as political by wearing armbands featuring poppies to mark Armistice Day, emotions ran high in Paris as France hosted Sweden a year on from terror attacks in the French capital.

A capacity crowd of 80,000 at the



**Germany midfielder Serge Gnabry (R) celebrates one of his three goals with teammate Sami Khedira during their 2018 World Cup qualifier against San Marino at the Stadio Olimpico on Friday.** PHOTO: REUTERS

Stade de France held a minute's silence to mark Sunday's first anniversary of the attacks which left 130 people dead prior to the hosts' come-from-behind 2-1 win over Sweden.

On the night of the coordinated attacks across Paris, France were playing Germany at the same stadium in a friendly when three suicide bombers blew themselves up immediately outside the ground, killing one man.

French president Francois Hollande attended the Sweden game, as he had the Germany match, Friday's encounter held on a public holiday marking the day that saw the guns fall silent at the end of World War I in 1918.

France's win -- courtesy of goals from Paul Pogba and Dimitri Payet after Emil Forsberg had put the Swedes

RESULTS	
France 2 (Pogba 57, Payet 65)	Sweden 1 (Forsberg 54)
Czech Republic 2 (Krmencik 11, Zmrhal 47)	Norway 1 (King 86)
Northern Ireland 4 (Lafferty 27, McAuley 40, McLaughlin 66, Brunt 83)	Azerbaijan 0
San Marino 0	Germany 8 (Khedira 7, Gnabry 9, 58, 76, Hector 32, 65 Stefanelli 82-og, Volland 85)
Armenia 3 (A. Grigoryan 50, Haroyan 74, Ghazaryan 90+4)	Montenegro 2 (Kojasevic 36, Jovetic 38)
Romania 0	Poland 3 (Grosicki 11, Lewandowski 82, 90+1-pen)
Denmark 4 (Cornelius 15, Eriksen 36-pen, 90+2, Ankersen 78)	Kazakhstan 1 (Suyumbayev 17)
England 3 (Sturridge 24, Lallana 50, Cahill 61)	Scotland 0
Slovakia 4 (Nemec 12, Kucka 15, Skrtel 36, Hamsik 86)	Lithuania 0
Malta 0	Slovenia 1 (Verbic 47)

ahead -- lifted them atop Group A with seven points from three games as their visitors slid three points off the pace.

Holland have a chance to join Sweden on seven points if they win at makeweights Luxembourg on Sunday.

Reigning world champions Germany gave no quarter to Group C minnows San Marino with debutant Serge Gnabry of Werder Bremen helping himself to a hat-trick in an 8-0 rout in Serravalle.

Sami Khedira bagged the first on seven minutes and then Gnabry added a quickfire second before Jonas Hector bagged a brace, his second coming in between Gnabry's second and third strikes. A Mattia Stefanelli own goal made it seven and Kevin Volland put the icing on the cake as Germany made it four wins in four.

# 'Pogba's game not about the goals'

AFP, Paris



France coach Didier Deschamps insists there is an awful lot more to Paul Pogba's game after the Manchester United star

found the net again in his country's 2-1 win over Sweden on Friday.

The world's most expensive player headed in France's equaliser before Dimitri Payet got the winning goal in the World Cup qualifier at the Stade de France on Friday.

It was Pogba's eighth goal for his country and followed his winner in the 1-0 victory away to the Netherlands last month.

The 23-year-old also scored a superb volley in United's 3-1 win at Swansea City in the English Premier League last weekend but Deschamps said: "He is not a goal-scorer. He can score goals and has done so but I don't especially expect him to do that."

"All the better that he did so today but I am much more happy with his overall performance which followed on from what he did in the Netherlands."

"For Manchester he is used in a different position in a different system. He gave us a lot of fluidity with the ball and was good at winning possession back," Deschamps added.

"When Paul is playing like that and has a good partnership with Blaise Matuidi it is important for the team. If he scores, all the

better. I know he likes scoring but it is not what I or the team expect from him."

France are three points clear of Sweden at the top of Group A four games into European qualifying for the 2018 World Cup thanks to Payet's 65th-minute winner.

There was a touch of controversy about the goal, however, as Antoine Griezmann was in an offside position in the build-up. The striker's presence then led to goalkeeper Robin Olsen fumbling a cross, allowing Payet to score.

"Sweden deserved a better result. It is a bit of a shame because the second goal was offside, but these things happen in sport," lamented visiting coach Janne Andersson, whose team had gone in front through a superb Emil Forsberg free-kick at the start of the second half.

Deschamps responded: "I saw that he was slightly offside. His tibia was offside. It wasn't given, and all the better for us."

"But there was also a cross and an error that led to the goal. It could have been given. There wasn't much in it and it went in our favour. I understand the anger and disappointment of my Swedish colleague."

The game was played almost exactly a year on from the terror attacks that struck Paris on Friday November 13, 2015.

A total of 130 people were killed in the attacks, including one man when three suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the Stade de France while France were playing Germany in a friendly.



# Mexico win a thriller

AFP, Columbus



Skipper Rafael Marquez scored an 89th minute winner as Mexico stunned the United States 2-1 in a thrilling World Cup qualifying duel between the arch-rivals here Friday.

Marquez, 37, headed home a Miguel Layun corner in the dying minutes of a pulsating battle which saw an ugly scuffle deep into injury time.

Marquez's goal came after the US had clawed their way back into the contest with a Bobby Wood equaliser on 49 minutes after Layun's 20th-minute goal put Mexico 1-0 up.

Jurgen Klinsmann's side had looked the likeliest to take all three points but instead it was Marquez who struck to snatch Mexico's first ever qualifying win over the United States at their Columbus stronghold.

The result gives Mexico the early initiative in the CONCACAF region's six-team final round of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

The United States now face a testing trip to Costa Rica on Tuesday needing to pick themselves up after a shattering loss. Mexico had the better of a frenetic first half, rattling US nerves after only 10 minutes when Jesus Corona cut in from the left and saw his shot tipped against the woodwork after a diving save from Tim Howard.

At the other end, the US threatened sporadically but were unable to find the breakthrough, with Jozy Altidore's 20th minute header easily gathered by Mexico goalkeeper Alfredo Talavera. Moments later Mexico took the lead. Again it was an attack that began down the left flank, Layun pouncing on a loose ball near the edge of the area and driving a low shot which took a slight deflection as it flew past Howard.

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