

CHANNEL 9 & SONY SIX
Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Chittagong Vikings v Rajshahi Kings
 Live from 1:30pm
 Comilla Victorians v Rangpur Riders
 Live from 6:15pm

BOISHAKHI TV
Bangladesh Premier League
 Sk Jamal v Ctg Abahani
 Live from 3:30pm
 Sk Russel v Soccer Club Feni
 Live from 6:15pm

STAR SPORTS 1
 India v England
 Second Test, Day 2
 Live from 10:00am
SONY ESPN
 ATP World Tour Finals

Day Six
 Live from 8:00pm
SONY SIX
Primera Liga
 Real Betis v Las Palmas
 Live from 1:30am (Saturday)

Bangladesh Premier League T20
 Chittagong Vikings v Rajshahi Kings
 Time: 1:30pm

Comilla Victorians v Rangpur Riders
 Time: 6:15pm
 Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong

Bangladesh Premier League
 Sk Jamal v Ctg Abahani
 Time: 3:30pm

Sk Russel v Soccer Club Feni
 Time: 6:15pm
 Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

Herrera to frame Spain debut shirt

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain midfielder Ander Herrera will preserve the memory of his international debut by framing the shirt he played in at Wembley on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old, who has represented Spain at every age group, made his senior debut when he came off the bench to replace Thiago Alcantara in the 56th minute of the friendly against England.

"It was exciting and an honour to represent my country. I will have to frame the shirt. Wembley is the best stage for a debut," Herrera told reporters.

Herrera came on when Spain were trailing 2-0 but Isco and Iago Aspas scored in the dying minutes to earn the visitors a draw.



Novak Djokovic hits a forehand during his ATP World Tour Finals round robin match against David Goffin at the O2 Arena in London yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ruthless Novak routs Goffin

AFP, London



Novak Djokovic crushed David Goffin 6-1, 6-2 at the ATP Tour Finals on Thursday as the world number two kept his foot on the gas in the race to finish the year atop the world rankings.

Djokovic had already qualified for the semi-finals as group winner, but the Serb was keen to keep the momentum going in his bid to overhaul world number one Andy Murray and he took just 69 minutes to demolish Goffin at London's O2 Arena.

The 29-year-old has been in a prolonged slump since winning the French Open for the first time in June, sparking rumours about his private life and questions about his recent involvement with a 'spiritual guru' as he lost the top ranking to Murray.

But the decline is all relative as Djokovic has now won 21 of his last 22 matches at the Tour Finals, keeping him on course to win the tournament for a fifth successive year and record-equalling sixth time in total.

It is also the fourth time in the last five years that Djokovic has won all three of his group matches at the Tour Finals.

Djokovic is now 70 points ahead of Murray in the ATP's 'as it stands' rankings, although he already knew winning the tournament would give him the year-end pole position whatever happened against Goffin.

Tour Finals debutant Dominic Thiem and Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic meet later on Thursday in a shoot-out to determine who qualifies for the last four alongside Djokovic.

Murray faces Stan Wawrinka in his last group match on Friday knowing a victory would guarantee he qualifies as group winner, thus avoiding a clash with Djokovic before the final.

Goffin was a late replacement for the already eliminated Gael Monfils, who pulled out of his last group match to avoid aggravating the rib injury that has troubled him for several weeks.

The Belgian, up to a career high 11th in the world rankings, had been paid £80,000 (\$99,000) to hang around the O2 Arena all week as one of the tournament's on-call substitute players.

Karwanbazar up to fifth

SPORTS REPORTER

Karwanbazar Pragati Sangsad notched up a 1-0 win over Chittagong Mohammedan SC in the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Farhad Mia struck the decisive goal one minute into the second half.

With a second win in five matches, newcomers Karwanbazar leapfrogged to fifth from seventh with six points from five matches while Ctg Mohammedan slipped to seventh with three points from five outings.

Bale reveals his best teammate

AGENCIES, London

Gareth Bale has revealed Ryan Giggs is the greatest player he has played alongside, not Cristiano Ronaldo.

Foot Locker put a few questions to the man who is now the world's second most expensive footballer. One of them being: 'Who is the greatest player you have played with or played on the pitch?'

"For me the greatest player is Ryan Giggs. He was my hero growing up and is a legend in world football. It also helps he's a fellow

Rooney says sorry

REUTERS, London

Wayne Rooney has apologised to England's interim manager Gareth Southgate after images emerged of him on international duty which were "inappropriate for someone in his position", a statement issued on the striker's behalf said on Wednesday.

The England captain was pictured in the Sun newspaper looking worse for wear having dropped in on a wedding party over the weekend following Friday's victory over Scotland at Wembley.

"Naturally Wayne is sorry that pictures taken with fans have been published today," the statement said.

"Although it was a day off for the whole squad and staff, he fully recognises that the images are inappropriate for someone in his position.

"Earlier today Wayne spoke privately to both Gareth Southgate and (FA technical director) Dan Ashworth to unreservedly apologise. He would like to further extend

that apology to any young fans who have seen these pictures."

Manchester United forward Rooney had started England's 3-0 victory over Scotland, but withdrew from the squad ahead of Tuesday's 2-2 draw with Spain due to a minor knee injury.

The English Football Association have said they will now review what players are allowed to do in their free time.

"All England personnel have a responsibility to behave appropriately at all times. We will be reviewing our policy around free time whilst on international duty," the FA said in a statement.

A report on Sky Sports said that Rooney's club manager, Jose Mourinho, was angry that the forward had been with members of England's backroom staff into the early hours of Sunday.

The report added that Rooney, who has endured a difficult season and found himself on the bench for both club and country, will be assessed by United's medical staff ahead of Saturday's Premier League home game against Arsenal.

Ctg Abahani aim to rebound

Face Sheikh Jamal today

SPORTS REPORTER



The JB Bangladesh Premier League returns to Chittagong as the 15th round of matches of the professional football leagues get underway at the MA Aziz Stadium in port city today.

Local outfit Chittagong Abahani will take on holders Sheikh Jamal DC before last edition's runners-up Sheikh Russel KC face Feni Soccer Club under floodlights.

With four-time champions Abahani leading 12-team table, the tie between Chittagong Abahani and Sheikh Jamal is a crucial one. Both teams will need an outright victory to close the gap with Abahani, who are four and 10 points ahead of Chittagong Abahani and Sheikh Jamal respectively.

Chittagong Abahani are desperate to return to winning ways following a goalless draw against struggling Sheikh Russel KC, while Sheikh Jamal find themselves lagging behind after a surprise 1-0 loss to Rahmatganj MFS in their previous match.

"Our target is to secure all nine points from the three matches in front of our home crowd. If we can win all three matches, the gap with the leaders will close and we will have a good position in the title race," said Chittagong Abahani captain Mamunul Islam.

"However, the match against Sheikh Jamal is very important for us because we have already played against big teams [Abahani, Mohammedan SC and Sheikh Russel]. So if we can start with a win against Sheikh Jamal, our remaining tasks will be easy," said Mamunul, who will miss today's match owing to a hamstring injury.

"After suffering four defeats, we have our backs to the wall and there is no alternative but to win all three matches in Chittagong if we want to return to the title race," said Sheikh Jamal captain Yeasin Khan, who believes his teammates need to be more motivated to put up a collective performance on the pitch.

In their first meeting in Mymensingh, Sheikh Jamal and Chittagong Abahani played out a goalless draw.

WHAT THEY SAY

England personnel have a responsibility to behave appropriately at all times. We will be reviewing our policy around free time while on international duty.



- ENGLISH FA

I feel sorry for the players. We live on the sunny side of life, but in the end maybe it is a surprise there is a human being behind the kid. This generation is the most professional generation of footballers we have ever had - not only in England. All the legends you admire, they drank like devils and smoked like crazy and were still good players. Nobody does that any more. I've no idea where Wayne was but I'm pretty sure it was not that serious.

- JURGEN KLOPP

Of course (it's less of a problem than it used to be). My advice to players is to follow the advice of their managers and coaches. Overall it is part of youth to make mistakes and, after that, analyse well. All the big players make mistakes, but they address it in a positive way.

- ARSENE WENGER

FA punishes Mourinho

AFP, London



Jose Mourinho was fined by the Football Association for pre-match comments about Anthony Taylor after his remarks were found to have brought "an additional layer of pressure" upon the referee, it was revealed Wednesday.

Manchester United manager Mourinho spoke about Taylor ahead of last month's goalless draw away to arch-rivals Liverpool in the Premier League.

Taylor's suitability to take charge of the game was widely questioned in the build-up, mainly on account of the fact he lives in Altrincham, near Manchester.

Mourinho, asked for his view, said: "I don't want to say anything about it, but I think Mr Taylor is a very good referee. But I think somebody with intention, is putting much pressure on him, that I feel it will be difficult for him to have a very good performance."

Though far from the most incendiary remarks the Portuguese boss has made during his time in England, they were enough to land Mourinho with a misconduct charge by the Football Association, with his comments said to have been improper and/or brought the game into disrepute.

Mourinho accepted the improper conduct element but contested the disrepute charge. But an independent regulatory commission found against him and imposed a fine. Their reasons for doing so were made public on Wednesday.

"Despite saying that he (Mourinho) did not want to say anything, he contradicts himself by offering actual comment on the match official," the commission found.

WALTON

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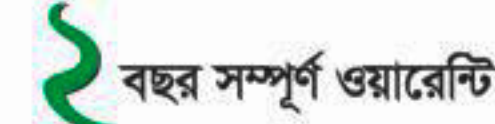
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