

**SONY SIX**  
Australian Open  
Mixed Doubles Final  
Live from 11:00am  
Mens Singles Final  
Live from 2:30pm

**La Liga**  
Bilbao v Sporting Gijon  
Live from 11:30pm  
Real Madrid v Sociedad  
Live from 1:40am (Monday)

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
India v England  
2nd T20  
Live from 7:20pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2**  
Bundesliga  
Freiburg v Hertha Berlin  
Live from 8:20pm  
Mainz v Dortmund  
Live from 10:20pm

**SONY ESPN**  
La Liga  
Real Betis v Barcelona  
Live from 5:00pm  
FA Cup  
Man United v Wigan

Live from 10:30pm  
Serie A  
Napoli v Palermo  
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

**DAY'S EVENT**

**BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE**  
Four Day Match, Day-2  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: Shaheed Chandu Stadium, Bogra  
BCB North Zone v Prime Bank South Zone  
Venue: Sylhet International  
Cricketer Stadium

## Messi's first coach dies in Argentina

AFP, Buenos Aires

Ernesto Vecchio, the first coach of Lionel Messi when the budding superstar was a young rookie in Argentina, has died at the age of 65, the Newell's Old Boys club announced Friday.

"We regret to announce the death of Ernesto Vecchio, the technical director of Leo Messi during his debut (at Rosario)," said a statement on the Twitter account of Newell's where Vecchio worked for more than 30 years.

Vecchio, who divided his time between Newell's and working with the Messi Foundation charity, remained a staunch supporter of the Barcelona star even when he was widely criticised for announcing his international retirement following last year's Copa America defeat to Chile.

## Sevilla snap up Montoya

AFP, Madrid

Sevilla made Argentine midfielder Walter Montoya their third signing of the January transfer window on Saturday on a four-and-a-half year deal from Rosario Central.

"Sevilla will count on the services of Argentine midfielder Walter Montoya, 23, once he passes the required medical," Sevilla said in a statement.

"The agreements are complete both with his club, Rosario Central, and the player himself. He will sign for four-and-a-half years until June 30, 2021."



Two tennis legends, Spain's Rafael Nadal (L) and Switzerland's Roger Federer, will contest the Australian Open men's singles final today. Federer is aiming for his 18th Grand Slam title while Nadal is looking to win his 15th.

PHOTOS: AFP

# Nadal, Fed renew classic rivalry

AFP, Melbourne

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal make their unexpected return as Grand Slam finalists on Sunday in a classic Australian Open decider that nobody saw coming but which has sent tremors of excitement through the sport.

Even the two combatants would never have predicted they would meet again in the Melbourne final, but the stars have aligned after the early exits of top seeds Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic.

It promises to be a final to savour between the two old warriors, who have both returned from injury to set up their 35th career meeting and ninth for a Grand Slam title.

Either Federer, 35, will expand his record haul of major singles titles with his 18th, or 30-year-old Nadal will close the gap on the Swiss legend by winning his 15th.

"It is special to play with Roger in a final of a Grand Slam, I cannot lie," Nadal said, after surviving a nailbiting, five-set semifinal with Grigor Dimitrov.

Federer, who also needed five sets to get past world number four and fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka in the semis, spoke of the "magnitude" of his match against Nadal.

But Dimitrov described it best. "I

just know that two of the greatest players of tennis are going to square off on Sunday, and it's going to be a freakin' amazing match," he said.

Nadal appears to hold the edge over his great rival, at least on paper, with a 23-11 win-loss record against Federer, 6-2 in major finals and 3-0 at the Australian Open.

But Nadal insists his past Grand Slam supremacy over Federer will have no bearing on the outcome. The Mallorcan has spent well over five hours more on court than Federer, and has one fewer day of rest before the final after his epic semifinal wrapped up in the early hours of Saturday.

Yet Nadal has done it before in Melbourne in 2009, when he pounded out a longer five-set semifinal against Fernando Verdasco, and two days later conquered Federer in the final -- in another five-setter.

Perhaps significantly, in five out of the past nine years, the man who has played his semifinal second has gone on to win the final.

Both players stand to make plenty of history in the final. At 35 years, 174 days Federer can become the second oldest Grand Slam champion in the Open era, after Australia's Ken Rosewall. Meanwhile Nadal is bidding to become the first man since 1968 to win each of the four major titles twice.

It will be Federer's sixth Australian Open final and 28th Grand Slam decider in total, and caps a marvellous comeback after the second half of last season was ruined by a knee injury, with his ranking dipping to 17.

Nadal, the ninth seed in Melbourne, has also been out of the Grand Slam limelight since his last title success at Roland Garros in 2014, as injuries sidetracked his glorious career.

Both have a deep respect and admiration for each other. Federer even travelled to Mallorca for the opening of Nadal's tennis academy last October.

"I just think he's an incredible tennis player. He's got shots that no other one has. When you have that, you are unique and special," Federer said of Nadal.

"Plus he's got the grit. He's got the mental and physical ability to sustain a super high level of play for years and for hours and for weeks."

"I think he's been tremendous for the game. I have a lot of respect for him on many levels."

Nadal underlined that reputation with his gripping win in Friday's semifinal which was on a par with some of his very best matches.

The Spaniard, who is into his fourth Australian decider and 21st Grand Slam title match, says his rivalry with Federer is one that draws notice from outside of tennis.

"It's the combination of two different styles that makes the matches really special," he said.

"It's a different way to play tennis. Both of us have a lot of good success

## Wenger given 4-game ban

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger was given a four-game touchline ban with "immediate effect" by the Football Association on Friday after accepting a misconduct charge following an

incident that saw the veteran Arsenal manager sent off in Sunday's dramatic win over Burnley.

Wenger will now be forced to sit in the stands for Arsenal's FA Cup trip to top-flight rivals Southampton on Saturday, as well as Premier League games against Watford, leaders Chelsea and Hull City.

Wenger was sent off by referee Jon Moss after allegedly using abusive or insulting language towards fourth official Anthony Taylor after Burnley were given a stoppage-time penalty at the Emirates Stadium.

The French coach, 67, tried to watch the final moments of the match from the entrance to the tunnel and was shown pushing Taylor when the official asked him to leave the area.

Arsenal went on to win the game 2-1 after being awarded a penalty of their own in the final minute, with victory taking them second in the Premier League table, eight points behind Chelsea.

Wenger's post-match apology for his behaviour couldn't stop the FA, English football's governing body, charging him.

The FA said Friday that it was alleged that Wenger, Arsenal's manager since 1996, had "in or around the 92nd minute, used abusive and/or insulting words towards the fourth official".

The FA statement added: "It was further alleged that following his dismissal from the technical area, his behaviour in remaining in the tunnel area and making physical contact with the fourth official amounted to improper conduct."

Wenger was also fined £25,000 (\$31,000, 29,000 euros) after formally admitting the charge at a personal hearing before an independent regulatory commission.



The medal winners and medal hopefuls of Bangladesh pose for a selfie on an otherwise frustrating day for the hosts in the 1st ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 1st ISSF SOLIDARITY ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP

# Stars flop, minnows save face

SPORTS REPORTER

Having started the home tournament with an aim of grabbing as many as six out of nine gold medals on offer, hosts Bangladesh saw their hopes badly dashed as the two best archers of the country failed to get into medal contention in individual events on the second day of the 1st ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship yesterday.

Bangladesh's two best archers, Ruman Sana and Shyamoli Roy, failed to win a medal, but unheralded Hira Moni and Bonya Akter saved some blushes for the hosts by getting into the finals of their respective events at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Ruman, who had won a gold medal at the Asian Grand Prix in 2014, beat compatriot Durul Huda to enter the semifinals of the men's recurve bow event, but then lost consecutive matches against Bhutanese counterparts to bid goodbye to his medal hopes. The 23-year-old archer first lost against Nima of Bhutan in 6-2 sets in the semifinal before losing to Bhutan's Lam in 6-4 sets in the bronze medal deciding match.

The youngster said luck was not with him on Saturday. "It's a matter of small margins. I couldn't hold my composure today. I tried to play my natural game but luck was not on my side."

Shyamoli, who represented the country as the lone archer in the Rio Olympics last year, did even worse than Roman as she failed to move past the quarterfinals. Shyamoli, the third seed, lost the women's quarterfinal of the recurve bow event in straight sets (6-0) against Azerbaijan's Gasimova, who went on to win the bronze medal by beating Bangladesh's Radia Akter Shapla.

However, Bangladesh's Hira Moni made it into the final, beating Shapla in the semifinal (6-2). Hira will compete against Ramozamova of Azerbaijan in the gold medal match on Monday.

Hira said she would try her best to win her first gold medal in any international tournament. "This will be my first international final, but I am not feeling any pressure. I participated in the SA Games last year but didn't win any medals. So I will try to do my best to win a gold here."

The hosts will also be represented in the women's compound singles final by Bonya Akter, who will meet highly regarded Iraqi archer Fatimah in the final. Bonya beat compatriot Sushmita while Fatimah beat Bangladesh's Bipasa in the two semifinals.

Sushmita later went on to win the bronze medal in that event by beating Bipasa. The other bronze for the hosts came through Milon Molla, who beat Walid of Iraq in the third-place deciding rubber of men's compound singles.

## Rooney wants to go into management

AFP, London

Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney has revealed he wants to go into management when he hangs up his boots.

The 31-year-old, who recently became United's record goalscorer, has made more than enough money to retire and spend the rest of his life relaxing, but the England captain loves the sport too much to walk away.

"My whole life has been around football, and the minute I finish playing I would like to try and stay in the game and hopefully get the opportunity to manage," Rooney told the BBC on Friday.

"I think when you get a bit older you start to think a bit more about the game and it's something I'd love to do."

"Players who are playing in this generation do have enough money to not have to go into management, so the ones who want to do it will be successful."

Rooney surpassed Bobby Charlton's record United tally of 249 goals with his stunning free-kick that grabbed United a late 1-1 Premier League draw at Stoke on Saturday.

But after 15 years of top-flight football and 250 goals for United, Rooney admitted finding the back of the net still provides an unrivalled rush.

Rooney revealed that celebrating a goal is perhaps the sole moment in a match when a player can burst their concentration bubble to appreciate the full impact of the crowd.

"It's an amazing feeling when you score a goal," said Rooney.

"The initial feeling, it's like you're playing football under water and when you score the goal you come up for air. And you can hear the crowd, the atmosphere for that four, five seconds; it's a mad feeling."

## Wolves KO Liverpool

AFP, Liverpool



Liverpool fell to a third home defeat in eight days as they exited the FA Cup in a humbling 2-1 loss to second-tier Wolverhampton Wanderers at Anfield on Saturday.

First-half goals from defender Richard Stearman, his first for the Midlands club in nearly three years, and Andreas Weimann saw Paul Lambert's side join Swansea and Southampton in tasting success at Anfield in the space of just over a week.

But, after seeing their team knocked out of the League Cup by Southampton in midweek, this latest loss was a particular disappointment for home supporters, who booed their team off the field at half-time.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp opted for an under-strength team against a team currently positioned just four places above the relegation zone in English football's second-tier Championship.

Only Georginio Wijnaldum, Ragnar Klavan and Roberto Firmino could be classified as first-team regulars among Klopp's starting XI and the gamble

backfired before even a minute of the fourth round tie had elapsed.

The hapless Alberto Moreno fouled Dave Edwards and Helder Costa's superb free-kick was met at the far post by Stearman, whose powerful header flew across goal and into the Liverpool net.

Wolves' second goal, in the 41st minute, was the result of even worse Liverpool defending as Matt Doherty's pass was gathered by the impressive Costa, who held off Moreno far too easily.

His superb pass, into a central position from the right, found Weimann, sprinting between Joe Gomez and Connor Randall, and the Wolves forward advanced confidently before touching the ball past Loris Karius and slotting into an open goal.

Not until the 86th minute did Liverpool manage to breach the Wolves defence as the visitors failed to clear a Philippe Coutinho corner.

Daniel Sturridge helped the ball across goal and Divock Origi turned the ball in at the far post.

It might have been worse for Klopp, whose side are 10 points behind Premier League leaders Chelsea, as his defence in particular struggled to cope with the committed visitors, roared on

by 8,300 Wolves supporters.

Shortly after the opening goal, Nouha Dicko failed to connect with a shot eight yards out and, in the 10th minute, Costa sprinted nearly 70 yards, leaving a line of defenders in his wake, before slicing off target.

While seven-times FA Cup winners Liverpool began to enjoy more possession, Wolves' solid defending ensured 20-year-old back-up goalkeeper Harry Burgoyne did not have a first-half save to make.

The closest thing to a Liverpool chance fell to Firmino, just after the half hour, but his attempted curler flew wide and, at the interval, Klopp threw on Coutinho.

There was almost an instant response as Ben Woodburn's free-kick was met by Firmino.

But what appeared a goal bound header struck team mate Klavan on its way out for a goal-kick.

Wolves, themselves four-time FA Cup winners, albeit the last in 1960, were being pressed deeper and deeper into their own half, packing 10 men behind the ball for long passages of play.

Coutinho's first sight of goal -- and Liverpool's first on-target effort of the game -- ended with a weak 22-yard shot straight at Burgoyne on the hour.



Wolverhampton Wanderers striker Andreas Weimann (L) celebrates scoring the second goal against Liverpool during their FA Cup fourth round match at Anfield yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP