

What to watch

GTV, MAASRANGA, STAR SPORTS 1
Champions Trophy
 India v South Africa
 Live from 3:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1
French Open
 Men's Final
 Nadal v Wawrinka
 Live from 7:00pm

SONY ESPN
World Cup Qualifiers
 Iceland v Croatia
 Live from 12:45am (Monday)

TEN HD
World Cup Qualifiers
 Macedonia v Spain
 Live from 1:00am (Monday)

Ostapenko stuns Halep

Wins her maiden Grand Slam title

Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko stunned third seed Simona Halep 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 on Saturday to win her maiden Grand Slam title and become the lowest-ranked champion in French Open history.

Ostapenko, 20, is the first unseeded player to lift the Roland Garros title in the Open era and the first Latvian major champion in history.

She is the youngest French Open winner since Iva Majoli in 1997 and the first player to win a debut four-level title at a Slam since Gustavo Kuerten in Paris that same year.

For Halep, bidding to join compatriots Ilie Nastase and Virginia Ruzici as major winners, it was a second final defeat in four years at Roland Garros.

The 25-year-old would have replaced Angelique Kerber as world number one with victory, but Halep was overpowered by Ostapenko blasted 54 winners to the Romanian's 10.

Ostapenko set the tone immediately, disguising any nerves with an array of bruising groundstrokes to beat Halep in the opening game.

But the Romanian delivered a swift counter-punch, hitting back straight away on the Latvian's serve before holding with ease for 2-1.

More crisp shotmaking for Ostapenko nudged the 20-year-old ahead once more, but the errors flew off her racquet just as regularly and Halep pulled 4-3 in front.

Ostapenko's wildness betrayed her as she served to stay in the set at 4-5, netting a forehand to offer Halep set point and drilling long to gift the Romanian the set.

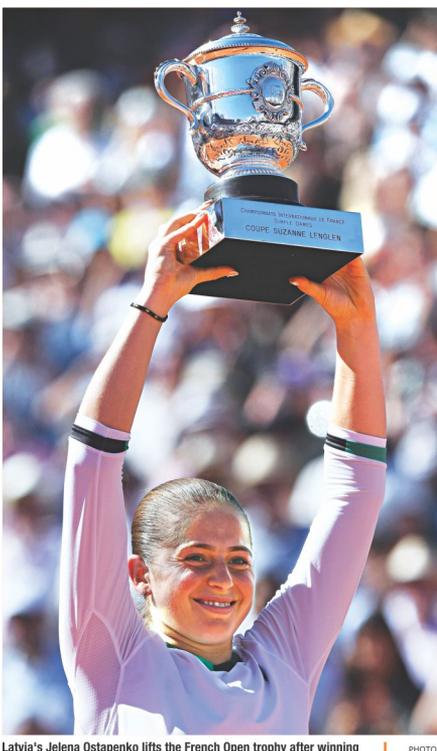
The Latvian's mood soured further when Halep escaped from 0-40 down to begin the second set, the third seed then breaking Ostapenko to compound her frustration.

Halep consolidated with a gritty hold for 3-0 before Ostapenko fought off a trio of break points to stall her rival's momentum and spark an incredible comeback.

The Latvian moved level on serve when Halep hooked a forehand wide and then earned another break to chalk up a fourth game on the trot.

The errors crept back into her game and Halep responded for 4-4, but Ostapenko promptly broke to love to leave herself in sight of a deciding set.

She conjured up three set points with a laser forehand down the line, forcing the match to a third set with another sweetly-struck winner.



Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko lifts the French Open trophy after winning the final against Romania's Simona Halep in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

History beckons Nadal

ATP Paris
Rafael Nadal insists
 winning a record 10th French Open title on Sunday, and his 15th career Grand Slam crown, would not be his greatest achievement.

His proudest moment, he believes, came at his lowest ebb back in 2012 and 2013 when it seemed certain that his career-long battle against knee and wrist injuries would finally be lost.

But, from a seemingly fruitless position, he then engineered one of the sport's most remarkable seasons.

"It's true that 10 is a beautiful number, but actually my favourite is nine," said Nadal, the nine-time champion at Roland Garros.

"For sure if it becomes 10 it will be my favourite."

"But the thing that I am more proud of in my career probably is 2013. It was amazing."

Nadal missed seven months of action between 2012 and 2013 due to a left knee injury and then a stomach virus.

But when he returned, he swept to the French and US Open titles and reclaimed the world number one spot.

"I had too many problems on my knee, so I was not able to practice at all. And I finished the year being World No. 1, winning here [in Paris], winning the US Open. So that's the thing that I am more proud," said Nadal.

The 31-year-old Spaniard has coasted into a 10th French Open final, where he faces 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka on Sunday, without dropping a set.

FINAL H2H



Head to Head (Overall) Played: 18

15	3
Head to Head on Clay Played: 6	1
5	1

FRENCH OPEN 2017 STATISTICS

17	Sets Played:	20
0	Sets Lost:	2
28	Return Games Won:	35
14	Aces:	36
141	Winners:	253
09h	Hours on court:	11h
59m		19m

While Wawrinka needed the best part of five hours to defeat world number one Andy Murray, Nadal brushed aside Dominic Thiem, the conqueror of Novak Djokovic in straight sets.

His career record at Roland Garros reads 78 wins and just two losses.

On Sunday, he will be playing in his 22nd Grand Slam final.

On his way to the title match, he has shipped just 29 games, six fewer than when he made the 2012 final and just two more than the record of 27 conceded by Bjorn Borg in his 1978 trophy season.

However, despite boasting a 15-3 head-to-head superiority over 32-year-old Wawrinka, the oldest man in the Paris final in 44 years, Nadal is wary of complacency.

"Nine here is probably difficult. If I did it, probably somebody else gonna do it, because I don't consider myself very special," he said.

"I am not the right one to say, but to play 10 finals here is something difficult."

Wawrinka has only beaten Nadal once on clay in six meetings.

But there is no doubt that he is a big match player.

The Swiss has won all three Grand Slam finals in which he has appeared – in 2014 he beat Nadal in Australia and then Novak Djokovic in the 2015 Paris final and again in last year's US Open finale.

The win in Melbourne was his first in 11 straight losses against Nadal.

Twelve months ago, Nadal withdrew from the French Open with a left wrist injury on the eve of the third round.

Rosario braces for Messi's wedding

AFP, Rosario

Soccer superstar Lionel Messi's Argentine hometown is preparing to host footballing and showbiz celebrities when he marries childhood sweetheart Antonella Rocuzzo this month in Latin America's month of the decade.

Colombian popstar Shakira, wife of Messi's Barcelona teammate Gerard Pique, has said she hopes to attend.

Media such as local Rosario newspaper La Capital also expect other current and former Barcelona stars such as Luis Suarez, Neymar, Cesc Fergues and Xavi Hernandez to be among the invites.

The Barcelona forward's agents confirmed in a statement that the couple will wed in Rosario on June 30, a week after Messi's 30th birthday.

The guest list, venue and party details are the subject of a swirl of rumors.

Some media predicted 600 guests, but La Capital said no more than 250 were expected, including 21 Barcelona players.

Ord seeks more time to select U-23 team

Sports Reporter

Newly appointed Australian coach Andrew Ord sought more time to watch all players of the preliminary squad before trimming the squad for the upcoming AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers, which is scheduled to be held in Palestine from July 19 to 23.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), with the help of technical staff such as Spanish assistant coach Gonzalo Sanchez Moreno, New Zealand goalkeeping coach Ryan Sandford and fitness trainer John Whittle, picked 54 players from different Bangladesh Premier League clubs, barring Team BJMC for the U-23 trial. 19 of those players, including national winger Jewel Rana, midfielders Rubel Mia and Sohel Rana, did not attend the three-day trial which concluded on Friday, citing illness.

"The coach found some interesting players who have good potential," BFF general secretary Abu Najem Shohag said. "Unfortunately many players had fever and he didn't get to see them. So they [the coaching staff] will take some more time to decide because they want to make sure they don't miss anyone before selecting the squad."

Bangladesh Under-23 team manager Sarajvit Das Rupu said they would take their next steps after discussing the matter with the chairman of the National Teams Committee.

Andrew Ord has also been involved in the selection process for the national U-18 team, which will take part in September's SAFF U-18 Championship, and the National U-19 team, which will participate in the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers in October-November.

The four-day trial for the U-19 side began yesterday with the participation of 54 players who have been selected from Bangladesh Premier League and Bangladesh Championship League.

France fall to Sweden

AFP, Paris

France complicated their task of ensuring automatic qualification to next year's World Cup in Russia after falling to a dramatic 2-1 defeat in Sweden on Saturday.

Sweden snatched victory with an Ola Toivonen goal from the half-way line in extra time after a poor clearance from France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

The freak goal sent the massed ranks of yellow clad fans in Stockholm into a wild frenzy, but more importantly with four games to go it sent Sweden top of Group A, level on 13 points with France.

Only the winners of each game are guaranteed a place at next year's finals in Russia, with the eight best second-placed sides competing in the play-offs.

The French will now play a crucial tie on August 31 against the Netherlands, who remain in the running after thrashing Luxembourg 5-0, while Cristiano Ronaldo led Portugal's 3-0 triumph in Latvia.

France had pulled ahead through Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud after 37 minutes, but the Scandinavians levelled before the break thanks to Jimmy Durmaz (43).

And after more than three minutes of regular time Toivonen took advantage of a poor clearance from France captain Lloris with a soaring shot into the back of an empty net.

For Deschamps's side it was the first defeat in qualifying and they next face a tough test against the Netherlands in Paris.

Veterans Arjen Robben (21) and Wesley Sneijder (34) laid the groundwork for a Dutch victory in coach Dick Advocaat's first game in charge.

In the second half (62) and Quincy Promes (70) scored with Vincent Janssen, adding a penalty six minutes from time.

united we achieve | **UCB**

VALID ONLY IN BANGLADESH

4628 70XX XXXX XXXX

VALID FROM UNTIL

UCB-redefining customer satisfaction

Instant secure fund transfers between UCB accounts, seamless local and international UCB credit card bill payment, hassle free account statement, convenient mobile bill payment and much more at ATMs across the nation.

Phone bill payment

Fund transfer

Account statement

Credit card bill payment

16419

United Commercial Bank Limited www.ucb.com.bd

ANNOUNCEMENT

Written Test for the post of Trainee Assistant Teller

The Written test for the post of Trainee Assistant Teller will be held on **Friday 16 June 2017, at 10:00 a.m.** Details of the test will be available in the Admit Card.

The candidates are requested to download and print their Admit Cards for the Written test from the website of the Bank:

www.pubalibangla.com/career.asp
 Admit Cards will be available at the website only for the short-listed candidates.