

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX & TEN 2**  
**FIFA Confederations Cup**  
**SECOND SEMIFINAL**  
**Germany v Mexico**  
Live from 12:00am (Friday)

## FACEBOOK TO LIVESTREAM C LEAGUE

Facebook will broadcast Champions League matches for American internet users under a deal with Fox Sports, which will host the livestreams on its page, the channel said Tuesday. The partnership will involve two group matches per day, four rounds of sixteen games, and the four quarterfinals of the 2017-18 season, in the social media giant's latest foray into sports streaming. Facebook will act only as a host for the streams, with the images and content produced by Fox Sports. A Fox Sports spokesman confirmed that the content would only be available to Facebook users in the United States. Facebook has already signed partnership with the North American football league Major League Soccer, which will see around 20 matches broadcast in 2017, as well as an agreement with Liga MX, the Mexican championship, for some 40 games last season.



# Confident Germany hope to see off Mexico

Germany are the kings of the penalty shoot-out – but the world champions hope to see off Mexico in Thursday's Confederations Cup semifinal without needing a shoot-out.

The Germans have won all five recent shoot-outs they have faced since 1976 at either World Cup finals or European championships.

Joachim Loew's team face the Mexicans in Sochi for a place in Sunday's Confed Cup final in St Petersburg against either Portugal or Chile, who meet later on Wednesday in Kazan's other semifinal.

Having won their Confed Cup group, Germany are on a 13-match unbeaten run, dating back just under a year to their Euro 2016 semi-final defeat to hosts France.

Left-back Jonas Hector said Germany's young guns have not yet practised shoot-kicks and hope to beat Mexico over the 90 minutes.

"We would like to avoid this situation (penalties)," admitted Hector. "We haven't specifically trained for it and we'll take it as it comes."

Nevertheless, the Germans seem to have penalty-taking in their blood.

Their Under-21 team beat England 4-3 on penalties on Tuesday to book their place in Friday's final at the European Under-21 championships in Poland.

Loew said he does not have a list of his top five penalty takers.

"Sometimes the players practise after training, but you can't train for what will happen on the night," the German coach said.

"If it happens, I will look at the faces of my players after the final whistle, take into account who is ready and who has

missed them in the past, then make a decision," added Loew.

The Germans expect a battle royal against Mexico's come-back kings. The Mexicans came from behind in all three of their group matches, beating both New Zealand and Russia 2-1 after drawing 2-2 with Portugal, when they twice equalised.

"It will be aggressive in a positive sense, it is how they have been playing for years," said Loew.

"They hunt the ball with all their players and when they have it, they play it deep quickly."

Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio, who has chopped and changed his side so far, will be without suspended captain Andres Guardado.

Loew has promised changes with forward Lars Stindl, who has scored twice so far in Russia, expected to return along with left-back Hector.



Mexico's Colombian coach Juan Carlos Osorio (L) and star forward Javier Hernandez attend a press conference in Sochi yesterday on the eve of their Confederations Cup semifinal against Germany.

PHOTO: AFP

## QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below.

### Max Biaggi out of ICU

Italian motorcycle racing star Max Biaggi has left intensive care in a Rome hospital two weeks after being admitted following a training accident, he revealed on Twitter.

### FIFA discloses damaging Qatar World Cup bid report

FIFA on Tuesday released a long-withheld report on alleged corruption in awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar after more leaks deepened the controversy surrounding the vote.

### Alves confirms Juventus departure

Juventus full-back Dani Alves has confirmed that he is leaving the Italian champions after a season in Turin in a posting on his Instagram account on Tuesday.

### Messi's star-studded Argentine wedding

Football and showbiz stars gather in northern Argentina on Friday for Latin America's celebrity wedding bash of the decade when Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi marries his childhood sweetheart Antonella Rocuzzo.

## Coman in hot water

AFP, Milan

Bayern Munich's French international forward Kingsley Coman will go before a judge later this year accused of domestic violence in an incident involving his ex-girlfriend, sources said on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old was arrested and held by police on Monday morning in the Paris suburb of Chessy, the public prosecutor in Meaux told AFP, confirming an earlier report on Europe 1 radio.

Coman, who in April made his loan move to Bayern from Juventus permanent after the German giants paid 21 million euros (\$23 million) for his signature, admitted the charge and will plead guilty when he goes before a judge after the summer recess.

## U-23 team to play 3 practice matches

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Under-23 football team will play three practice matches ahead of next month's AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers in Palestine.

The charges of Andrew Ord are expected to play against defending Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani and take on the Nepal Under-23 team and Sri Lanka Army SC, informed team manager Sayajit Das Rupu.

Bangladesh has been pitted against Jordan, Palestine and Tajikistan in Group F of the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers. They will begin their campaign against Jordan on July 19 and take on Tajikistan on July 21 before playing their last match of the group against hosts Palestine on July 23.

Ten group winners and five best runners-up will join hosts China for the final round of the 16-team competition in 2018. "The team will play a practice match against Abahani here. Then they will fly to Nepal to take on their U-23 team in Kathmandu on July 11 before coming back home to face Sri Lanka Army SC on July 14," Rupu said.

The team is in much better shape now compared to when they started their camp around ten days ago, the team manager said. The camp started in BKSP on June 20 after Ord conducted a number of selection trials in Dhaka and had initially selected 54 players.

The current 32-member squad, which will regroup tomorrow after the Eid vacation, has been trimmed from 36 members over the last few days, with three key players – Hemanta Vincent Biswas, Jewel Rana and Rubel Mia – expected to join on Friday.

The squad will be further reduced to the final 23 members after the match against Abahani, informed Rupu.

## COMPLAINT AGAINST COACH HAMID No headway in a month

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) has opened an investigation into the national team's assistant coach Abdul Hamid following a written complaint by six national swimmers placed before the federation's president, Admiral Mohammad Nizamuddin Ahmed, federation officials said.

The six swimmers, who participated in last month's 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, claimed they felt they had no alternative but to lodge the complaint against Hamid, who is also a joint secretary of the federation.

South Asian Games' double gold medalist Mahfuz Khan Shila is one of those six swimmers. "We had to face a lot of trouble during the camp for the Islamic Solidarity Games," Shila said. "When we asked him [Hamid] to solve the issues, he didn't pay any heed. He was busy watching television or reading newspapers instead of giving us time."

Shila, who was roundly criticised by Hamid before the SA Games, said they went to the officials, including general secretary Molla Badrul Saif, but no action was taken against the coach.

"He [Hamid] behaved rudely with us and always overlooked our problems. So we asked the other officials for a solution but

nobody took any necessary steps which is why we went to the president for a proper solution," Shila added.

Hamid, who claimed he did not get any formal letter from the federation, refuted the allegations against him.

"I learnt that the swimmers raised complaints against me but the federation is yet to give me any formal letter regarding the issue," Hamid said.

"Whatever allegation they have brought against me is baseless because I gave proper time in the training camp. I am a victim of conspiracy."

Meanwhile, the federation president instructed forming a three-member committee to investigate issue.

The committee – comprising vice-president Rafiquddin Rafiq, joint secretary Selim Miah and member Nibedita Das – was reportedly not taken any necessary steps even one month after the lodging of the complaint.

Selim Miah said that as they were busy with other issues, they did not get time to investigate the matter.

"We were busy with the nationwide talent hunt programme last month which is why we asked for more time," he said.

"Before reaching any conclusion, we will talk with both parties and hopefully we will submit our report to the executive body before the next meeting which is likely to be held on July 11."

## Hulk summoned by Chinese FA

AFP, Shanghai



Hulk was hauled before the Chinese Football Association (CFA) on Wednesday as the fallout from an eight-game ban handed to Shanghai SIPG team-mate Oscar rumbled on. SIPG manager Andre Villas-Boas travelled with the Brazilian striker to CFA headquarters in Beijing and another Shanghai player, Wu Lei, was also present, a club spokesman told AFP.

Hulk, who has hit nine goals in the Chinese Super League (CSL) this season, and Chinese international Wu wore T-shirts in support of the banned Oscar during Henan Jianye 4-1 at the weekend.

The club spokesman declined to give further details and said only that the CFA hearing was "related" to the shirts.

Hulk's top had the words NOTHING TO DO, NOTHING TO SAY written on it, the same phrase as on a T-shirt worn by Oscar and which has become an unofficial rallying cry for SIPG fans angry at the CFA.

It is the second time in as many months that the 30-year-old Hulk has gone before Chinese football chiefs – last month he was accused of punching the assistant coach of another club.

Hulk denied the accusation and no further action was taken.

Brazil's Oscar, an Asian-record 60-million-euro capture this season from Chelsea, was the latest big-name foreign import to hit trouble in China when he was slapped with the lengthy suspension last week for triggering a mass brawl in a league game.

## Maldini loses on pro tennis debut

AFP, Milan



Five-time European Cup-winning footballer Paolo Maldini's tennis career ended abruptly on his debut on Tuesday when the AC Milan legend lost 6-1, 6-1 in a first-round doubles match.

Maldini stepped onto the court at the Milan Challenger event as his most decorated sportsman.

But the 49-year-old Italian football legend – whose tennis dream was to "play against Roger Federer" – saw his career hopes dashed with a chastening defeat to doubles specialists David Pel and Tomas Bednarek while playing alongside his tennis coach Stefano Landono.

It was a logical defeat, given the players' ranking history.

Dutchman Pel is ranked 208th in the world while Poland's Bednarek reached a

career high of 44th in 2014, reaching a quarterfinal at Roland Garros on the way. Landono's highest ever ranking was 975th, in 1996.

Maldini and Landono were given an invite to the event thanks to their recent victory in an amateur tournament.

But although the Challenger circuit is one level below the elite ATP circuit played by the likes of Federer, it proved a steep fall for Maldini and his partner.

Maldini produced a few strong forehands, but showed flaws in his backhand and was well below professional standard on serve.

It was over within an hour, and Maldini said that, as far as his professional tennis career is concerned, it is game, set and match.

"It was a great experience and one I really enjoyed, but I won't repeat it," said Maldini, who can nevertheless afford to regard it as a blip in an otherwise sterling career.

## Loew wants dopers to be shamed publicly

AFP, Sochi



Germany manager Joachim Loew wants the names of any players caught doping to be made public, after Russian football was on Wednesday accused of tampering with urine samples.

A year before they host the World Cup, Russian football has come under the spotlight amidst fresh allegations of drug abuse.

Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren, the author of an explosive report into Russian doping, has told German broadcaster ARD he has new evidence suggesting that positive tests taken from Russian players were swapped with clean samples.

Loew says any footballer caught doping must be named and shamed.

"It's an ongoing investigation and I don't want to heat the speculation," said Loew in Wednesday's press conference ahead of Germany's Confederations Cup semifinal against Mexico in Sochi.

"But if it's confirmed, I would like to hear the names being made public."

"The anti-doping agencies and FIFA (world football's governing body) should call a spade a spade, then we will see what happens."

"Should it (the allegation) be true, I want to hear names from the institutions who regularly test us. If players have doped, they should be suspended and banned."

## Verdy swoop for Totti?

AFP, Tokyo



Italian superstar Francesco Totti, who recently made a tearful farewell to Roma after 25 years at his boyhood club, is wanted by Japan's Tokyo Verdy.

Officials told AFP on Wednesday.

The I-League second division side have made an audacious offer to the 40-year-old World Cup winner, although they face competition from Major League Soccer's Miami FC among others for Totti's signature.

Verdy president Hideaki Hamyu has been quoted by Italian media as saying Totti had asked for a deal worth three million euros, but Verdy declined to confirm details of their offer.

"We are not as rich as (Vissel) Kobe or (Itrava) Red so we can't just go after any player on the market," admitted Kurabayashi, adding that Miami – coached by Totti's close friend Alessandro Nesta – could also out-muscle Verdy financially.

"It will be difficult but we are exploring options to get the deal done."

Totti made 786 appearances and scored 307 goals for Roma in a 17-year, 25-year career, and won the World Cup with Italy in 2006.

Despite interest in his services,

retirement still remains an option for the striker, who made his debut for Roma as a 16-year-old in a 2-0 win over Brescia in 1993.

Totti won the Serie A title in 2001 and twice won the Coppa Italia and has also been linked to a role as a club executive at Roma.

Japanese first division side Vissel backed a trend of high-profile players moving to China when they signed career World Cup winner Lukas Podolski earlier this year.

Kobe's swoop for the former Arsenal striker also represented something of a coup for the I-League, which once attracted luminaries such as Zico and Gary Lineker when it began in 1993 but has struggled to acquire big-name players in recent years.