

# What to WATCH

**GTV & STAR SPORTS SELECT 2**  
**Bangladesh v Sri Lanka**  
 Second T20I  
 Live from 5:00pm  
*Bundesliga*  
**Augsburg v Stuttgart**  
 Live from 8:30pm

**Monchengladbach v Dortmund**  
 Live from 11:00pm  
**TEN 1**  
**South Africa v India**  
 First T20I  
 Live from 6:30pm  
*Serie A*

**Milan v Sampdoria**  
 Live from 1:45am (Monday)  
**SONY ESPN**  
*Serie A*  
**Torino v Juventus**  
 Live from 5:30pm  
**Napoli v SPAL**

Live from 8:00pm  
**FA Cup**  
**Rochdale v Tottenham**  
 Live from 10:00pm  
**TEN 2**  
*La Liga*  
**Atletico Madrid v Athletic Bilbao**

Live from 9:15pm  
**Espanyol v Villarreal**  
 Live from 11:30pm  
**Real Betis v Real Madrid**  
 Live from 1:45am (Monday)

**DAY'S EVENT**  
**Bangladesh v Sri Lanka**  
 Second T20I  
 Time: 5:00pm  
 Venue: SICs, Sylhet

# Federer creates history

AFP, Rotterdam  
 Roger Federer became the oldest world number one on Friday when the 20-time Grand Slam title winner reached the semifinals of the Rotterdam Open.

The 36-year-old Swiss overcame an early setback to beat Robin Haase of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 and will replace old rival Rafael Nadal at the top of the rankings.

"What an amazing run it's been, to be number one again means a lot to me," Federer said.  
 "This is incredibly special, I'm so happy. I didn't really think I could get back to number one, this is a significant moment in my career."  
 Federer surpasses Andre Agassi, who held the top spot aged 33 years and 131 days in 2003, as the oldest man to claim the world number one spot.  
 It is Federer's first time back at the summit since October 2012 having first claimed the top position in February 2004.  
 "Reaching number one is the ultimate achievement in tennis. When

RECORDS	
Federer holds the record of 302 weeks as world number one. American Pete Sampras managed 286.	Federer, 36, is now the oldest player to reach the top of the rankings. American Andre Agassi did it aged 33 in 2003.
Federer is the oldest man or woman to be number one. Serena Williams was 35 when she relinquished top spot in the women's rankings in May.	By returning to number one for the first time since Nov 2012, Federer has set a new record for the longest gap between separate stints in the position.
Federer's 237 continuous weeks at world number one from 2004 to 2008 is also a record.	

you're older you have to work double the amount, you have to wrestle it back from someone who's also worked hard to get there. It's a dream come true," added an emotional Federer.  
 "It's been an amazing journey and to clinch it here, where I got my first wildcard in 1998, means so much."  
 Agassi was amongst the first to congratulate Federer.  
 "36 years 195 days... @rogerfederer continues to raise the bar in our sport. Congratulations on yet another remarkable achievement!!," tweeted

the American.  
 Federer had talked on Thursday of his desire to retake the world number one spot but doubted it would ever happen after he underwent knee surgery last year.  
 "I've struggled to try and get there. I had to win a lot of matches last year," said Federer, who was as low as 17 in the world in January 2017 before he returned to form with the Australian Open title.  
 The ageless wonder dropped his first set of the week against Haase, who later said he had been sick all week and unable to do any more than play his matches.  
 Federer is back on top after winning three majors in 13 months, including another Australian Open in January.  
 Federer was on his heels in the opening set as the aggressive Haase prevailed, but the Swiss top seed regained control to ease to the victory as he controlled the Dutchman in the remainder of the contest.  
 The Swiss triumphed to the cheers of the fans in 79 minutes, ending with six aces. Haase finished on a disappointing note with his second double-fault on match point.



A proud moment for Roger Federer as he celebrates his world number one ranking after defeating Robin Haase in Rotterdam on Friday. The 36-year-old Swiss became the oldest man to claim the world number one spot. PHOTO: AFP

# Safwan makes his case

SPORTS REPORTER  
 British-born Bangladeshi boxer Al Safwan Uddin clinched the title of the 60kg weight category, beating his final opponent Mohammad Rakib Sheikh by points, on the concluding day of the 29th National Senior Men's and 4th Senior Women's Boxing Championships at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday.

The 18-year-old boxer, who knocked out Kamruzzaman Jonny in the first round before overcoming Faisal Mollah in the semifinal, won the final bout in points count as three of the five judges voted in his favour. It was a difficult bout for the youngster, but he eventually lived up to the hype of being a better-trained pugilist coming from the UK to compete against senior opponents.

The youngster, who idolises Guillermo Rigondeaux of Cuba and Vasyl Lomachenko of Ukraine, was happy with his success, but wants himself to be more dominant in order to be successful at the international arena.

"I didn't want it to be a close fight," he said after winning the title. "I want to show them that I want to dominate. For that to happen, I need much more training and experience."

Having leaned his game from coaches in England, which is not one of the boxing superpowers, Safwan knows he needs to learn a lot more from coaches and players of other countries to grow. Hence he is 'looking forward to going to Cuba or the USA to learn better techniques.'

The youngster, who came here a week ago with his father just for these championships, also had some words of advice for the Bangladeshi boxers.

"There is still a lot that the Bangladeshi boxers need to add to their skill-set. They think being aggressive gives you points, but it's not like



British-born boxer Al Safwan Uddin (R) lived up to his credentials, winning the title of the 60kg weight category in the 29th National Senior Men's Boxing Championships, beating Mohammad Rakib Sheikh in the final at the Muhammad Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

that. They don't need to fight to knock out, they need to fight to win," Safwan said.

Meanwhile, being impressed by the talent and promise of this youngster, the Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation are hopeful that he can compete well in the South Asian Games in 2019, and even want him to be part of the Asian Games contingent this year.

"He is better technically and physically than the local boxers. We realized he has prepared mentally as well. He can be a boxer to compete with boxers from Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. If he can continue the way he is currently, he can do well at the SA Games,"

boxing coach Syed Mohiuddin Ahmed opined about the young boxer.

"Although the Asian Games is a much more difficult stage, we can expect something good from him there. We have asked the BOA officials to include him and they have responded positively," Mohiuddin added.

Meanwhile, the three-day championships came to an end yesterday, with Bangladesh Army emerging champions with six gold medals. They won all six gold medals in men's events. Bangladesh Ansar & VDP emerged runners-up with two gold medals in men's events and three gold medals in women's events.

# Barca grind out victory in Eibar

AFP, Madrid  
 Luis Suarez and Jordi Alba were on target as Barcelona saw off Eibar 2-0 on Saturday to continue their unbeaten record in La Liga and extend their lead at the top of the table.

Lionel Messi had a hand in both goals against an Eibar side who finished the match at Ipurua with 10 men after the second-half sending-off of Fabian Orellana.

It was not a comfortable afternoon for Ernesto Valverde's men on a rainy day in the Basque Country, and they had to wait until Alba's goal two minutes from the end to put the match to bed.

Still to lose 24 games into the league campaign, Barca are now 10 points clear of Atletico Madrid at the top of the table, although the capital side can trim that lead when they host Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

Barcelona will now turn their thoughts to the Champions League last 16, first leg against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday, and Valverde will be hoping his squad suffered no ill effects from a testing afternoon.

Valverde sent out a strong team, choosing to start Andres Iniesta and leave Philippe Coutinho on the bench, despite the Brazilian being ineligible

for the Champions League. Coutinho came on for Iniesta for the final half-hour.

Barca went ahead in the 16th minute, Messi's superb pass releasing Suarez, who rounded goalkeeper Marco Dmitrovic to score.

But the visitors had a couple of let-offs in the first half, with Sergio Busquets lucky not to concede a penalty as he pulled back Kike Garcia in the box. Orellana then hit the bar with a fine strike from outside the area.

However, the Chilean was sent off midway through the second half, stupidly picking up a second yellow card for kicking the ball away.

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The 12th Mobil Cup Golf Tournament was held at KGC on Friday with a number of senior officers of Bangladesh Army and Mobil Jamuna Lubricants participating. PHOTO: COLLECTED



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