

What to WATCH

BTV & CHANNEL 9
SAFF Suzuki Cup
India v Maldives
Live from 7:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
US Open
Men's Singles
Final
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

SONY SIX
England v India
Fifth Test, Day Three
Live from 4:00pm

TEN 1
International Friendly
Germany v Peru
Live from 12:45am (Monday)

TEN 2
UEFA Nations League
Denmark v Wales
Live from 10:00pm
France v Netherlands
Live from 12:45am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

SAFF Suzuki Cup
India v Maldives

Time: 7:00pm
Venue: BNS



A weary and wounded world number one Rafael Nadal retired from his US Open semifinal while trailing Juan Martin del Potro 7-6 (3), 6-2 on Friday, sending the Argentine back to the Flushing Meadows final for the first time since his 2009 triumph.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Del Potro sets up Djokovic final

FINAL H2H	
DEL POTRO (3) V DJOKOVIC (13)	
Head to Head (Overall) Played: 18	
4	14
Head to Head on Grand Slams Played: 4	
0	4
US OPEN 2018 STATS	
68	Aces 26
28/66	Break Points Won 31/84
218	Winners 162
123	Unforced Errors 187
14h	Hours on court 15h
16m	07m

AFP, New York



Juan Martin del Potro set up a US Open final clash against Novak Djokovic on Friday after defending champion and world number one Rafael Nadal quit his last-four clash against the giant Argentine with a knee injury.

Third seed Del Potro, the champion in 2009, was 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 ahead when Nadal retired.

Del Potro will now face Djokovic, the 2011 and 2015 winner, who reached his eighth final at the tournament and 23rd of his Grand Slam career with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 stroll past Japan's Kei Nishikori.

Djokovic boasts a 14-4 lead over Del Potro in a 10-year rivalry, including two wins without dropping a set at the US Open in 2007 and 2012.

"We have never met in a Grand Slam final. I have tremendous

respect for him as a person and a player. He's a great guy," said Djokovic who missed the 2017 tournament through injury.

"He's had lots of injury problems in the past but he's a big-match player."

Nadal was devastated by having to pull out although he believes he hasn't suffered any long term damage.

"I hate to retire," said Nadal, a player plagued by a series of knee injuries throughout his career.

He also retired trailing in the fifth set of his Australian Open quarter-final against Marin Cilic in January.

"It's not a tennis match when one is playing and the other is at the side of the court."

Nadal, bidding for a fourth title in New York and 18th major, had spent the best part of 16 hours getting to the semifinals.

That included almost five hours to defeat Dominic Thiem in an epic quarter-final which stretched into the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The effort took its toll, with the Spaniard twice needing to have his right knee bandaged before calling it a day after the conclusion of the second set.

"Well of course it's not the best way to win a match. I love to play against Rafa because he's the biggest fighter in this sport and I don't like to see him suffering," said 29-year-old Del Potro who will be playing in his second Slam final.

"I am sad for him but I'm also happy to do my best."

Wimbledon champion Djokovic, playing in his 11th US Open semi-final, claimed a 15th win in 17 clashes against Nishikori.

It was plain sailing for the 31-year-old Serb who is chasing a 14th Slam title to take him level with Pete Sampras on the all-time list.

He broke serve four times while an under-par Nishikori saved 13 of the 17 break points he faced and committed 51 unforced errors.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT TOUR Sohel breaks title jinx in style

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh's professional golfer Shakhawat Hossain Sohel sensationally eagled the first extra hole of the playoff to win his maiden Asian Development Tour (ADT) title at the PGM Miri Championship in Malaysia yesterday.

The 33-year-old returned with a solid five-under-par (67) in regulation play to tie with Nitithorn Thippong (70) of Thailand on seven-under-par (281) at the 58,000-dollar ADT event.

When they returned to the 18th hole for the playoff, it was a cool and composed Shakhawat who produced the shot of the day when he chipped in for an eagle from 40 yards to pip Nitithorn.

The victory was a dream come true for Shakhawat, who erased the heartbreak of losing in a playoff on the ADT in Malaysia in July. With this triumph, he became the second Bangladeshi to win on the ADT circuit after Siddikur Rahman.

"I'm feeling great. I can't express what I'm feeling. This is my first victory in an international tournament and I'm very

proud and happy," said the 33-year-old, who won 9,503 dollars.

"When I saw my eagle chip disappearing into the hole, I was just too excited. I remember screaming and celebrating. I think I threw my cap as well," Sohel said.

Sohel was three shots off the pace at the start of the final 18 holes but he took full advantage of a solid short game which resulted in a flawless round highlighted by five birdies.

The former ball boy from Kurmitola is in position to earn a 2019 Asian Tour card after moving to sixth place on the Order of Merit.

He needs to stay inside the top-seven on the final rankings to stand a chance to join Siddikur on the region's premier tour.

"It is a tough life for us," said Shakhawat. "We play without sponsors and as a junior we rely on club members and donations. I remember using a five-iron to chip and putt," he laughed.

"I had help to finally receive a full golf bag thanks to my sister and a Japanese member. It was a proud moment when I represented my national team because we played in tournaments around the world. Now I'm a winner on the ADT."



Shakhawat Sohel became the second Bangladeshi golfer to win on the Asian Development Tour circuit after Siddikur Rahman as he claimed the PGM Miri Championship in a play-off yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Brazil make it 11 in a row

AFP, East Rutherford



Roberto Firmino and Neymar scored the goals as Brazil cruised to a 2-0 friendly victory over an inexperienced United States here Friday.

Brazil, playing their first international since a disappointing World Cup quarterfinal exit, were in complete control throughout a low-key encounter at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The South American giants had won their previous 10 games against the United States, whose lone victory came way back in 1998.

There was never much doubt that Brazil would extend their winning record



Brazil's goalscorers Neymar and Roberto Firmino celebrate the latter's opening goal against the United States of America in a 2-0 friendly win in New Jersey yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Robinson rushed in to close down Costa, but was left for dead as the Brazilian skipped past him all too easily before picking out Firmino with a pinpoint low cross.

The South Americans doubled their lead three minutes from half-time when US captain Wil Trapp clipped Fabinho in the penalty area and Neymar stepped up to stroke in his 58th international goal in his 91st game.

ARGENTINA EASE PAST GUATAMALA; SUAREZ DESTROYS MEXICO
Giovanni Simeone marked his debut with a goal as a Lionel Messi-less Argentina outclassed Guatemala 3-0.

Messi was not included as he reportedly considers his future following Argentina's tumultuous World Cup campaign, which ended in the last 16.

Jorge Sampaoli lost his job as a result but interim boss Lionel Scaloni fielded a new-look line-up and reaped the benefits, albeit against minnows Guatemala in Los Angeles on Friday.

Debutant Gonzalo Martinez, Giovanni Lo Celso and Simeone -- the son of Atletico Madrid head coach and former Argentina midfielder Diego -- scored

their maiden goals in a one-sided first half at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The younger Simeone revealed the Atletico Madrid boss has touted his national team potential since the early part of his career with River Plate.

"As a kid when I played at River, my old man said that one day I would be here," the 23-year-old told TyC Sports.

"I had several opportunities [in the match] and I am very happy because I have great team-mates who are always giving everything to be able to win.

Meanwhile in Houston it was a Luis Suarez masterclass as the Barcelona star scored twice and set up another in Uruguay's crushing 4-1 win over Mexico.

Suarez scored a free-kick and converted a 'panenka' penalty at NRG Stadium, where Jose Gimenez's 22nd-minute opener was cancelled out by Mexico's Raul Jimenez spot-kick within two minutes.

Gaston Pereiro sealed the rout for Uruguay after Suarez turned provider in sensational fashion 15 minutes into the second half, while Jimenez had a penalty saved by Fernando Muslera during the closing stages.

Error-prone Italy held

AFP, Bologna



Roberto Mancini believes that only confidence is needed to turn a mediocre Italy into a world class team again after Jorginho rescued a point for the new-look Azzurri in a 1-1 draw against Poland in their Nations League A Group 3 opener on Friday.

Jorginho's penalty 12 minutes from time made amends after the Chelsea midfielder's blunder had allowed former Napoli teammate Piotr Zielinski's opener for Poland just before the break in Bologna.

Mancini, was appointed after the four-time winners' shock failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

And after a timid start, key substitutions - including promising Fiorentina forward Federico Chiesa -- allowed the former Manchester City manager to save face in his first competitive game in charge.

"I knew it was going to be difficult. They are a team that, at this moment, have more confidence than us," said Mancini.

"In the first half we made some technical mistakes, but then in the second half the guys were very good."

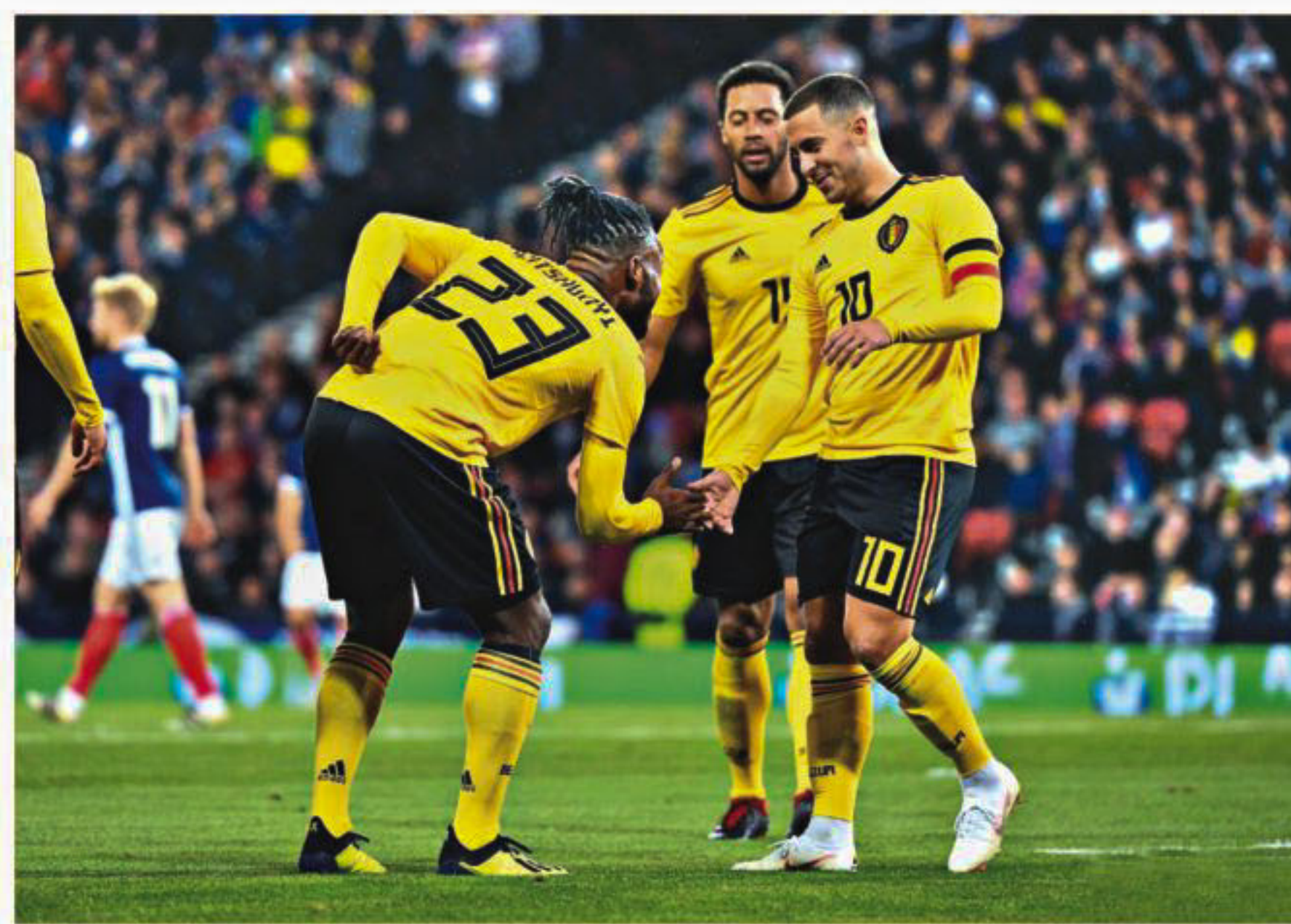
"There are many young players we can build on and I think we saw that in the second half, as we pushed forward and more importantly didn't make as many errors in our passing."

BELGIUM HAMMER SCOTLAND
World Cup semifinalists Belgium capitalised on a series of Scotland mistakes with goals from Romelu Lukaku, Eden Hazard and a Michy Batshuayi double to thrash the hosts 4-0 in a friendly at Hampden on Friday.

Roberto Martinez's men showed their class and no hangover from their exertions in in Russia to warm-up for their Nations League opener against Iceland on Tuesday.

"We were very clinical in front of goal," said Martinez. "The players were well focused overall and for us it was a good exercise for Tuesday."

His counterpart, McLeish said: "It was just a catalogue of errors. If anybody's got to take the blame, it's me for telling them they have to pass it."



Belgium's Eden Hazard (R) celebrates his only goal with Michy Batshuayi, who however scored twice, in a 4-0 demolition of Scotland yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Buffon, Cech and I are the last rockstars'

AGENCIES, Lisbon

Porto goalkeeper Iker Casillas has described himself as one of Europe's "last rock stars", along with Paris Saint-Germain's Gianluigi Buffon and Arsenal's Petr Cech.

The former Spain captain, 37, has played in all four of his side's league matches this season, keeping clean sheets against Chaves and Moreirense.

Buffon, meanwhile, signed a contract with PSG in July that could see him play for the Ligue 1 champions until he is 42, while 36-year-old Cech is keeping new Arsenal signing Bernd Leno out of the team at Emirates Stadium.

Casillas thinks the hugely successful trio must continue to enjoy their remaining playing days as they draw closer towards retirement.

"We're the last rock stars, the oldest players who are still playing, at least on the European scene," he told Expresso.

"You have to enjoy the time that you still have left. At 37, though, you are nearer to retiring than continuing to play."

Casillas left Real Madrid in 2015 but had seen his status in the first team diminish in the 2012-13 season, when he clashed with then-head coach Jose Mourinho.

However, the five-time La Liga winner has no interest in discussing his problems with the Manchester United boss now.

"After five or six years, you shouldn't talk about this," he said. "It's absurd now."

to 11 consecutive wins as they dominated throughout against an American team who are rebuilding after their shock failure to qualify for the World Cup.

The opening goal came after 11 minutes, when Juventus winger Douglas Costa found himself in space on the right flank.

British-born left-back Antonee

Did you watch the World Cup?

USA DEFENDER DEANDRE YEDLIN TO THE REFEREE AFTER BEING WHISTLED FOR A FOUL ON NEYMAR

Unfortunately I don't have much to say. Just to be sorry for him. He's the type of player... I don't know so I have no reason to be worried about it.

NEYMAR ABOUT YEDLIN'S COMMENT