

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

England v India
Fifth Test, Day Five
Live from 4:00pm
SONY ESPN
International Friendly
Poland v Ireland
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 1

International Friendly
England v Switzerland
Live from 1:00am (Wednesday)
TEN 2
UEFA Nations League
Spain v Croatia
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

80,000 FANS SING 'KANTE'S SONG'

N'Golo Kanté was an essential part of France's exploits in the World Cup a couple of months ago. To be honest, it's not surprising that his French teammates wanted to let the midfielder have his moment in the spotlight. When the French national team were enjoying their World Cup celebrations in the Stade de France on Sunday, the players surrounded the former Leicester City man for the Kanté song. What is the Kanté song? Well, these are the fantastic lyrics to it: "N'Golo Kanté, pala lalala, he's short, he's nice, he stopped Leo Messi, but we all know he's a cheater, N'Golo Kanté." It must have been an incredible moment for Kanté, especially for the thousands of fans in the stadium who were singing along. If it's not the Kanté song at the event, then Antoine Griezmann was centre of attention with his Fortnite-themed dance moves coming back out. —AGENCIES



ALL-TIME GRAND SLAM WINNERS

PLAYER	TITLES	AO	FO	W	UO
Roger Federer	20	6	1	8	5
Rafael Nadal	17	1	11	2	3
Novak Djokovic	14	6	1	4	3
Pete Sampras	14	2	0	7	5
Roy Emerson	12	6	1	3	2

DJOKOVIC'S US OPEN TRIUMPHS

2011 – defeated Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-1
2015 – defeated Roger Federer 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4
2018 – defeated Juan Martin Del Potro 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3

Novak wins 3rd title

Joins Sampras on 14 Grand Slams

AFP, New York



Novak Djokovic clinched his third US Open title on Sunday with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 triumph over Juan Martin del Potro, taking him level with Pete Sampras's mark of 14 Grand Slams.

Djokovic, playing in his eighth final in New York and already the champion in 2011 and 2015, is now just three Slams behind Rafael Nadal and six back from the all-time record 20 held by Roger Federer.

It was also the third time the 31-year-old Serb – who missed last year's tournament with an elbow injury which sent his career into a mini-crisis – completed the Wimbledon-US Open double.

"I want to say Pete, I love you, you're my idol," said Djokovic of Sampras.

"To the support of the loved ones, my kids, my wife, my small team of people that has been there with me through difficult times as well," added the Serb who underwent elbow surgery after the Australian Open in January.

For world number three Del Potro, it was a heartbreaking experience coming in just his second Slam final, nine years after he was crowned US Open champion before a long battle with wrist injuries pushed him into depression and to the brink of retirement.

It was Djokovic's 15th win over the Del Potro and fifth in five at the Slams.

The result also means that 50 of the last 55 majors have been won by the 'Big Four' of Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Andy Murray.

Del Potro backed Djokovic to surpass Federer's mark of 20 Slams.

"Of course he can. Novak has everything to make records in this sport," said the Argentine.

"I was so happy to be playing the final against this magnificent idol," added Del Potro of his close friend Djokovic.

"He knows that he's one of my friends on tour and he knows he's one player I want to watch win on tour. Of course I'm sad to lose but I'm happy for Novak as well. You deserve to win."

With the Arthur Ashe Stadium roof closed as heavy rain swept New York, conditions were slow and sluggish.

After taking just two points off Del Potro's first three service games, Djokovic, in his 23rd final at the majors, pounced to break for 5-3.

The key was his success with a lung-busting 22-shot rally and he pocketed the set when the 29-year-old del Potro netted a forehand.

It was only the second set dropped by the Argentine at the tournament.

For Djokovic, it was an illustration of him growing into the championships as he took his run of consecutive sets won to 14.

Djokovic was soon 3-1 up in the second set before Del Potro carved out his first break point of the match to level at 3-3.

He had three more chances in the eighth, all saved by Djokovic in a marathon 20-minute game.

The effort took its toll on a suddenly weary-looking Del Potro as a 95-minute set was claimed by Djokovic in the tiebreak.

Novak Djokovic celebrates with the US Open trophy after winning the men's singles final against Juan Martin del Potro at Flushing Meadows on Sunday.

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:

Mudric ready to remind Spain of his enduring class

Dejan Lovren was probably right in saying that if Luka Modric played for Spain or Germany he might not have won a Ballon d'Or by now – nobody other than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo has for 10 years – but he might well have been in the running.

Mourinho suffers embarrassing fall

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho was in attendance for England's match against Spain at Wembley and the Portuguese suffered a rather embarrassing moment outside the stadium.

Zidane wants to return to coaching soon

Frenchman Zinedine Zidane, who is rumoured to be the one who might replace Jose Mourinho at Manchester United if the Portuguese quits, has said that he will return to coaching again. Zidane is one of the finalists of the FIFA's Men's Coach awards after his exploits with Real Madrid.

France, Spain rule FIFPro shortlist

REUTERS, Paris



World champions France had eight players, one less than former holders Spain, in international players' association FIFPro's 55-name shortlist for its World XI of 2018 award.

Ten players out of last year's World XI, including Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, were named on the list, with Spanish giants Real Madrid the best represented club with 11 players.

World Cup semi-finalists England had three nominations in Tottenham Hotspur pair Harry Kane and Kieran Trippier as well as Manchester City's Kyle Walker.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane were the only two African nominees.

Wales and Real forward Gareth Bale, who scored twice in the Champions League final in May which Madrid won 3-1, did not make the list.

Around 25,000 professional footballers from 65 countries took part in the poll to decide the contenders. The World XI will be announced at The Best FIFA Football Awards in London on September 24.

SHORTLIST

GOALKEEPERS (5): Gianluigi Buffon (Italy), Thibaut Courtois (Belgium), David De Gea (Spain), Keylor Navas (Costa Rica), Marc-Andre ter Stegen (Germany).

DEFENDERS (20): Jordi Alba (Spain), Daniel Carvajal (Spain), Giorgio Chiellini (Italy), Dani Alves (Brazil), Diego Godin (Uruguay), Mats Hummels (Germany), Joshua Kimmich (Germany), Dejan Lovren (Croatia), Marcelo (Brazil), Yerry Mina (Colombia), Benjamin Pavard (France), Gerard Pique (Spain), Sergio Ramos (Spain), Thiago Silva (Brazil), Kieran Trippier (England), Samuel Umtiti (France), Virgil van Dijk (Netherlands), Raphael Varane (France), Sime Vrsaljko (Croatia), Kyle Walker (England).

MIDFIELDERS (15): Sergio Busquets (Spain), Casemiro (Brazil), Philippe Coutinho (Brazil), Kevin De Bruyne (Belgium), Eden Hazard (Belgium), Andres Iniesta (Spain), Isco (Spain), N'Golo Kanté (France), Nemanja Matic (Serbia), Luka Modric (Croatia), Paul Pogba (France), Ivan Rakitic (Croatia), David Silva (Spain), Arturo Vidal (Chile).

FORWARDS (15): Karim Benzema (France), Edinson Cavani (Uruguay), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), Paulo Dybala (Argentina), Antoine Griezmann (France), Harry Kane (England), Robert Lewandowski (Poland), Romelu Lukaku (Belgium), Mario Mandzukic (Croatia), Sadio Mane (Senegal), Kylian Mbappe (France), Lionel Messi (Argentina), Neymar (Brazil), Mohamed Salah (Egypt), Luis Suarez (Uruguay).

Giroud ends drought in style

REUTERS, Paris



France striker Olivier Giroud ended a run of 10 international games without a goal by netting a stunning winner as the world champions claimed a deserved 2-1 victory over the Netherlands in their Nations League clash on Sunday.

The night started with a rousing rendition of La Marseillaise as France played their first home fixture since lifting the World Cup in July, and ended with a comfortable victory for the hosts at the Stade de France.

The excellent Kylian Mbappe set France on their way with a first-half opener, but forward Ryan Babel equalised for the visitors with their only meaningful shot on target.

Giroud produced a moment of magic with a superb volley 15 minutes from fulltime to seal the win, as France recorded a fifth successive victory over the Dutch.

"The victory is the most important thing for the party to be really beautiful," France coach Didier Deschamps told broadcaster M6 after the game.

"I'm very happy for Olivier. It happens that strikers have periods when they are less effective.

"I said before the World Cup, Olivier is often unjustly criticised. We cannot ask him to do what other attackers do, but he is very important to the team. It is when he is not there that we realise his value."

Deschamps kept the same starting line-up that drew 0-0 with Germany on Thursday, a sign of his

desire to cap France's homecoming with a victory and keep the World Cup after-party in full swing.

Mbappe tested the reflexes of Dutch goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen early on, before the lively forward provided a tame finish from Antoine Griezmann's pass.

The teenager, however, put his

side in front after 13 minutes via a mistake from Dutch midfielder Quincy Promes.

His header went straight to Blaise Matuidi, whose cut-back provided a tap-in for a grateful Mbappe.

Griezmann was incisive with his passing and a superb defence-splitting

ball was perfect for fullback Lucas Hernandez, who could only sky his shot well wide.

Cillessen then showed impeccable timing to save at the feet of a surging Mbappe just before the break, avoiding the kind of contact that could easily have resulted in a penalty.

After Georginio Wijnaldum had dragged a good opportunity wide, the Netherlands levelled on 66 minutes with their only meaningful shot on target as Babel bundled the ball in off his knee from a Kenny Tete cross following a swift break down the right wing.

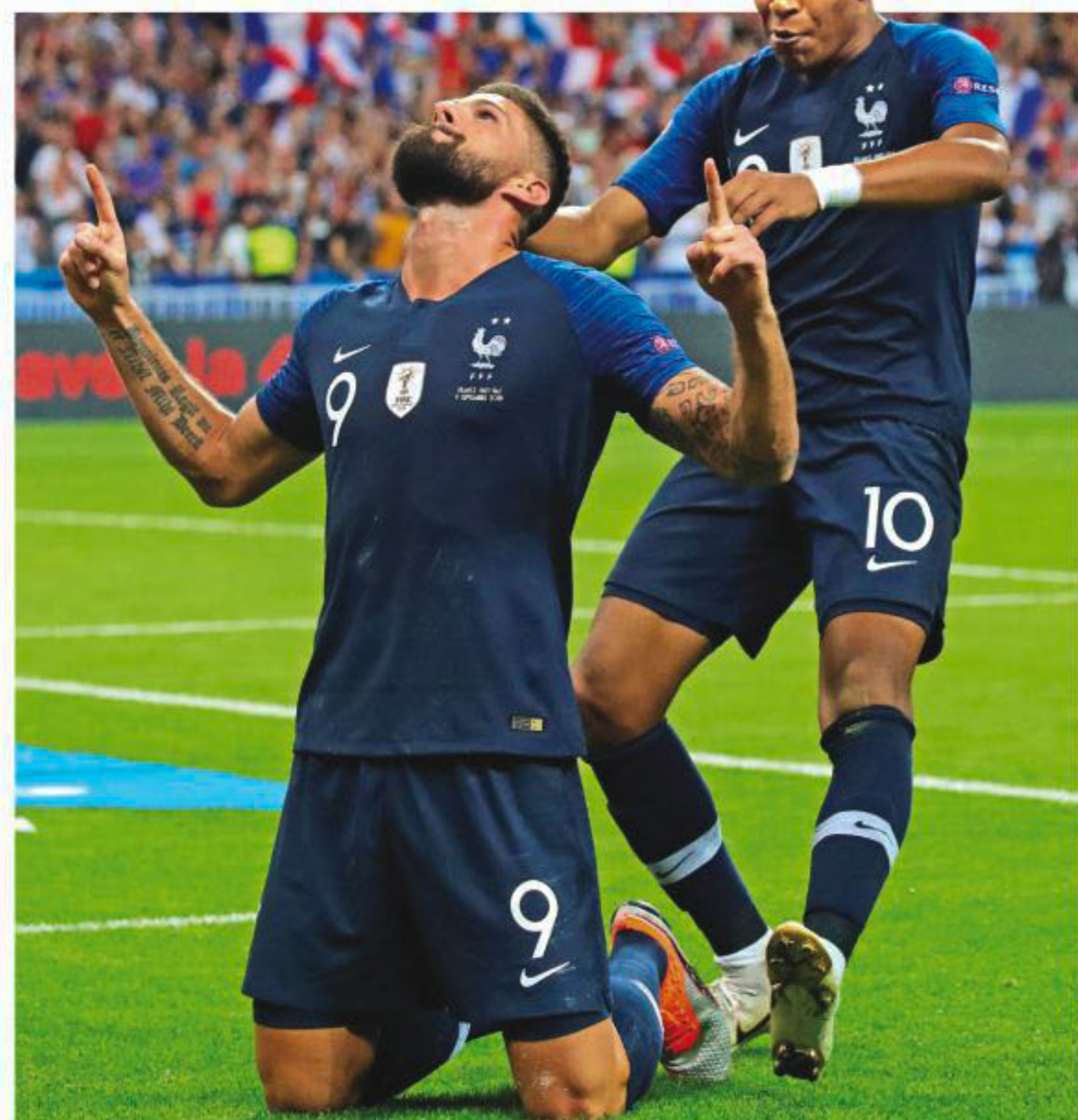
It was the former Liverpool forward's first goal in a competitive international since he netted on debut against Romania in a World Cup qualifier 13 years ago.

Giroud, however, ended his own barren run of games as he muscled ahead of Virgil van Dijk and produced a superb volley from Benjamin Mendy's cross to take his international goal tally to 32, past the great Zinedine Zidane on France's all-time scorers list.

"A cross for the striker, you just have to defend that. That has nothing to do with quality, it should not happen," a frustrated Dutch coach Ronald Koeman told NOS.

"We worked hard and played well. We showed that if we really try to play football, then we can play."

"I think we are on the right track, but we also have to improve some things. Teams such as France will punish our mistakes mercilessly."



France striker Olivier Giroud points to the heavens as he celebrates his winning goal with teammate Kylian Mbappe during their UEFA Nations League encounter against Netherlands at the Stade de France on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

Dream debut for Schulz

AFP, Sinsheim



Nico Schulz enjoyed a dream international debut on Sunday, as the Hoffenheim defender scored a late winner in front of his home crowd to give Germany a hard-fought 2-1 friendly win over Peru in Sinsheim.

Given his first cap for Germany in the stadium where he plays his club football, the 25-year-old Schulz put in a solid performance at left-back as the hosts came from behind to pick up their first win since crashing out of the World Cup in June.

"I am very happy for Nico, he put in a very engaged performance today," coach Joachim Loew told RTL. "He made a very good impression on me in training."

Germany had prioritised defensive stability in their 0-0 draw with France three days earlier, but they were out to score goals in Sinsheim, and forced several chances in the opening 20 minutes.

Marco Reus twice came close, while Matthias Ginter's header forced a smart save from Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

"We had more chances and were more ambitious going forward today than we were against France," Reus said. "With a bit more luck and bit more concentration I would have converted one of those chances."

Yet it was Peru who struck first, brutally exposing Loew's side on the

counter-attack in the 22nd minute. In a moment reminiscent of Germany's World Cup woes, Luis Advincula burst down the right wing and beat Marc Andre ter Stegen at the near post.

The lead lasted all of three minutes, as Julian Brandt levelled the scores with a delicate chip over Gallese.



Germany defender Nico Schulz (R) is ecstatic after his winning goal against Peru in their international friendly in Sinsheim on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP



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