

TEN 1
UEFA Nations League
Iceland v Switzerland
Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

TEN 2
UEFA Nations League
Spain v England
Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League
 Four-Day-match
 Day One
 Khulna v Rangpur

Time: 9:00am
 Venue: SANS, Khulna
 Barishal v Rajshahi
 Time: 9:00am

Venue: BDS, Barishal
 Dhaka v Sylhet
 Time: 9:00am
 Venue: SKICS-2, Cox's Bazar

Dhaka Metro v Chattogram
 Time: 9:00am
 Venue: SCS, Bogura

GIBRALTAR RECORD FIRST COMPETITIVE WIN

Little Gibraltar finally won their first competitive match after 22 defeats on Saturday when they beat Armenia -- who featured Arsenal star Henrikh Mkhitaryan -- 1-0 in the UEFA Nations League. A penalty in the 50th minute by captain Roy Chipolina gave Gibraltar the three points in Yerevan. It was just the tiny territory's third win since they joined UEFA following friendly victories against Malta in 2014 and Latvia in March this year. Since Gibraltar joined UEFA in 2013, they had scored five times and conceded a massive 107 times in the past 22 matches, including a series of heavy defeats; losing to Poland 8-1 and 7-0 and 7-0 against Germany and the Republic of Ireland in Euro 2016 qualifying. Their worst defeat was a 9-0 hammering at the hands of Belgium in World Cup qualifying in 2017. "So proud of the team and everyone involved. We have had many disappointments yet continued to work hard and believe. #history," tweeted Chipolina. **-AFP**



'New' Djokovic wins Shanghai

AFP, Shanghai

The "new" Novak Djokovic warned that he was gunning for Rafael Nadal's world number one ranking after winning the Shanghai Masters with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric on Sunday.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion has been imperious all week and barely offered a sniff to the 19th-ranked Croatian, a good friend and sometime-training partner.

The end when it inevitably arrived was anti-climactic, with the Serb winning the championship point after a video review. Djokovic buried his head in his hand at the absurdity of it.

The 31-year-old will leapfrog Roger Federer into second in the world when the rankings are released on Monday but will not stop there as the season reaches its climax. Nadal will be just 215 points ahead of Djokovic in the race to finish as year-end number one.

"I could not ask for a better scenario," Djokovic said of his late surge to the summit of men's tennis. "I am very close now to Nadal in the rankings and put myself in a good position for the last period of the year."

Red-hot Djokovic has now been victorious in 18 ATP matches in a row and in recent months won Wimbledon, the Cincinnati Masters, the US Open and now Shanghai for a fourth time. It is all a far cry from just five months ago, when Djokovic fell to 22nd in the world as he struggled following elbow surgery in February.

Djokovic, who has been particularly dominant on his serve, not dropping one service game in Shanghai, said: "I think you're seeing the new Novak. I don't need to describe him, that's all I can say."

"I had to reinvent myself and find, you know, (a) proper formula for success. I found it and I'm just trying to hold on to it as long as I can."



Serbia's Novak Djokovic leaps high into the air after a straightforward 6-3, 6-4 win over Borna Coric in the Shanghai Masters final handed him the World No. 2 ranking and a shot at ending the year on top. PHOTO: AFP



Germany's torrid run in 2018, which peaked with their group-stage exit from the World Cup, showed no signs of stopping as they suffered another body blow in the form of a 3-0 defeat to rivals Netherlands on Saturday night. The Germans face France on Tuesday, hoping to avoid a record sixth defeat in a calendar year. PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Bottom marks for Loew'

German press condemn manager after Dutch defeat

AFP, Berlin

The German press turned on Joachim Loew after the hammering by the Netherlands left the future of Germany's head coach in doubt with world champions France looming on Tuesday.

"Not at the moment," Loew replied in the post match press conference when asked if he can still decide his future following Saturday's 3-0 drubbing -- Germany's heaviest defeat to the Dutch.

Dutch captain Virgil Van Dijk gave the hosts a first-half lead before late goals by Memphis Depay and Georginio Wijnaldum capped a golden night for the Oranje in Amsterdam.

"That was a brutal and disappointing defeat, especially as we had the game under control in the first 30 minutes," said Loew, whose contract runs until 2022. "At the moment, you can feel that we do not have the self-confidence we used to have."

It could have been 4-0 as Depay also hit the crossbar in the dying stages as the German defence collapsed in the last 10 minutes.

If Loew's side loses to world champions France in Paris on Tuesday, it will mean a record sixth defeat for Germany in a calendar year.

After the World Cup debacle, when Germany

We're ready for the challenge: Neuer

AGENCIES, Berlin

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer insisted his team were ready to turn around their poor form after another loss on Saturday.

Neuer lamented his side's missed chances against Netherlands and said the players had told Loew they were desperate to turn their fortunes around.

"We created a fair few chances on goal. Our corners weren't too good, however. We weren't creating anything from them," he

crashed out after finishing bottom of their group, Loew again finds his team last in their Nations League pool. The Germans must win their last two games, against the French on Tuesday and Dutch in Gelsenkirchen on November 19, or risk relegation.

Germany's main newspapers were brutal with the head coach.

"Bottom marks for Loew! Irritation after questions over his future as a national coach," said Germany's top-selling daily Bild.

said, via DFB.de. "We had enough chances to score one or two goals. Then we concede two late on, when we're obviously very open."

"I don't know if every single player is feeling insecure. That's something every player needs to ask himself. We all made it clear to the head coach that we are ready for the challenge."

"When you lose that game, you obviously face a lot of criticism and people speak very negatively about the team. But [it] could have gone very differently, as you could see."

Football magazine Kicker pointed out that despite Loew's promises of a fresh start, little has changed. "New start? Loew's team are continuing the World Cup story."

Germany's other top papers were equally damning. "A scary evening," said Munich-based Sueddeutsche Zeitung. For a proud football nation, top newspaper Welt pointed out an uncomfortable truth, "3-0 defeat to the Netherlands - Germany is just a mediocre European nation".

Koeman not carried away

AGENCIES, Berlin

A pragmatic Ronald Koeman promised to keep his feet 'off the dancefloor' and planted in reality following Netherlands' victory over Germany.

"Well I'm not going to glide across the dancefloor, but of course I'm proud. This is a great result," the Everton manager said. "We were waiting a long time for this, but I'm not the kind of guy who pretends that we've become world champions."

"I'm proud because finally we got the result we needed and we can say 'yes, there is development in the team'. That's what we needed. You could also feel that in the stadium, in the atmosphere."

Netherlands meet Belgium in a friendly on Tuesday before their Nations League group-stage campaign wraps up in November.

Sk Russel, Saif SC eye trophies

SPORTS REPORTER

Since winning a rare treble in the 2012-13 season Sheikh Russel KC have never bagged any silverware in top-flight football, but this time they are dreaming of repeating that famous feat with a squad that is a blend of youth and experience, including four current national players.

Following the show-off from newcomers Bashundhara Kings on Saturday, Sheikh Russel KC, Saif SC and Muktiyoddha Sangsad KS completed their players' registration formalities yesterday, keeping their eyes on different targets in the upcoming professional league where both Sheikh Russel and Saif SC want to be champions.

Sheikh Russel signed four national players -- goalkeeper Ashraf Islam Rana, defenders Bishwanath Gosh and Yeasin Khan and winger Bipul Ahmed -- along with former national players like Mamun Khan, Ariful Islam, Khalerkurzaman, Uttom Kumar Banik, Mohammad Abdullah, Aminur Rahman Sajib, Shahedul Alam, Yeamin Munna. There are also some promising players like Rashedul Alam Moni, Sabuj Das Raghu, Sohel Rana, Fazle Rabbi, Nahidul Islam and Jamal Hossain while they roped in two Nigerians and one player each from Brazil and Uzbekistan.

"In the last three seasons, we had formed strong teams but could not get any success. This time our target is to win all the trophies and we want to go step by step," said Sheikh Russel's director-in-charge Ismat Jamil Akand during the registration formality at the BFF House.

The club management has also appointed two foreign assistant coaches along with one local assistant coach and physio after Saiful Bari Titu was appointed as head coach in April.

"We are determined to do well as I have complete faith on the squad which is comprised of young, senior and quality foreign players," Titu said. "It is not the right time to look for strengths



Sheikh Russel players during the registration formalities at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday. The transfer window will close today. PHOTO: STAR

and weaknesses of the team; that can only be found out after the Federation Cup."

Saif SC, who finished fourth last season and played the AFC Cup play-off round, are pinning hopes on their old guard as they have retained 16 players from the last season while poaching some players from Mohammedan SC, Sheikh Russel KC, Chittagong Abahani and Rahmatganj MFS.

They have also ensured the services of national captain Jamal Bhuiyan and defender Rahmat Mia before roping in Jafar Iqbal and Javed Khan.

"The first season is always hard for any team, so last year was a learning time for Saif SC. We learned a lot from our mistakes. There was also disappointment in the AFC Cup but this season

we hope we will do better as the expectation is high to win trophies of domestic competitions and obviously the league title," said Jamal Bhuiyan, who was the lone player to turn up at the BFF House as Saif SC have been training in Mymensingh under British coach Stuart Hall.

As part of pre-season preparation, Saif SC played the Badousa Cup in India and clinched the title before playing two preparation matches against the reserve teams of Atletico de Kolkata and Kolkata Mohammedan SC.

Muktiyoddha Sangsad coach Abdul Kaiyum Sentu said that they have formed a youthful squad that is expected to produce good results compared to their 11th-place finish in the last season.

SHORT CORNER

Walton rewards under-18 girls

Walton, sponsors of the Bangladesh women's football team, yesterday accorded a reception to the under-18 women's team for clinching the trophy of the inaugural SAFF U-18 Women's Championship at the BFF House yesterday.

The electronics manufacturing company, which had previously provided home appliances to the girls, gave away its own brand refrigerator to each of the 23 girls and promised to distribute 21 more refrigerators to the girls who are in the BFF training camp. "We promised to provide mobile phones to the girls but we have changed our mind to distribute refrigerators to all members of the winning squad. We will also give away refrigerators gradually to the other girls who are in the training camp," said Walton's director Iqbal Bin Anwar Don.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron and member Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir were also present at the programme.

Siddikur 12th in Karachi

Siddikur Rahman finished 12th in the UMA CNS Open Golf Championship, which concluded at the Karachi Golf Club yesterday. The 33-year-old golfer played one-under (71) in the final round for an aggregate of six-under (282) to share the 12th spot, earning a paycheck of 4,585 dollars. Tirawat Kaewsiribandit of Thailand clinched the title of the 300,000-dollar event with a score of 12-under (276).

Hockey team finish 8th

Bangladesh's five-a-side youth hockey team finished eighth in the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires yesterday after losing their place-deciding match against Austria in penalty shootout. The boys in red and green, who were beaten 3-0 by the same opposition in group stages, romped to a 2-0 lead early in the game, thanks to goals from Shawon Sarowar and Shohanur Rahman Shobuj. However, Austria hit back twice to take the game into penalty shootout where they scored twice again while Bangladesh failed to convert any of their attempts.

Boateng out of France clash

Germany defender Jerome Boateng has been ruled out of Tuesday's away Nations League match against France in Paris with the under-fire Germans eager to avoid a record sixth defeat in a calendar year.

Boateng picked up a calf injury in Amsterdam as the Germans were hammered 3-0 by the Netherlands. Boateng, a 2014 World Cup winner, will be replaced against the French by either Bayern Munich teammate Niklas Sule or Bayer Leverkusen's Jonathan Tah.

No regrets about staying: Hazard

Eden Hazard assured Chelsea he will never let his Real Madrid dream lead to petulance as he pledged to remain at Stamford Bridge beyond January.

The Belgium star was in demand after a standout World Cup and has never hidden his interest in a move to Madrid, the club he views as the best in the world.

But the Blues were quick to shoot down any prospect of losing another prized asset to the European champions after agreeing to Thibaut Courtois' wish for a transfer.

"Chelsea were clear with me. I couldn't leave the club. I accepted it," Hazard told Telefoot. "Leaving or staying, either way I was going to be happy. I do not regret this decision at all."

"When we make the face, when we sulk, we often have the last word. But I will never go into conflict with a club. If I leave it will be on good terms, like I did with Lille. Could a transfer happen in January? It's not possible."

City deny Messi megabid

Manchester City have firmly refuted claims they offered to triple Lionel Messi's salary in an attempt to lure him from Barcelona in 2016.

City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak was quoted in Spanish media on Saturday as saying that he asked Pep Guardiola to discuss the compelling financial offer with his former player.

But the Premier League champions have rejected the reports. "We deny the veracity of these quotes," a City spokesperson said.