

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN

Pakistan v Australia

Second Test, Day Three

Live from 12:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

National Cricket League

Four day match

Day Four

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

Loew defiant despite record defeat

AFP, Paris

A defiant Joachim Loew praised Germany's display in Tuesday's 2-1 UEFA Nations League defeat by world champions France as he lamented "a totally unjust penalty" awarded to the hosts.

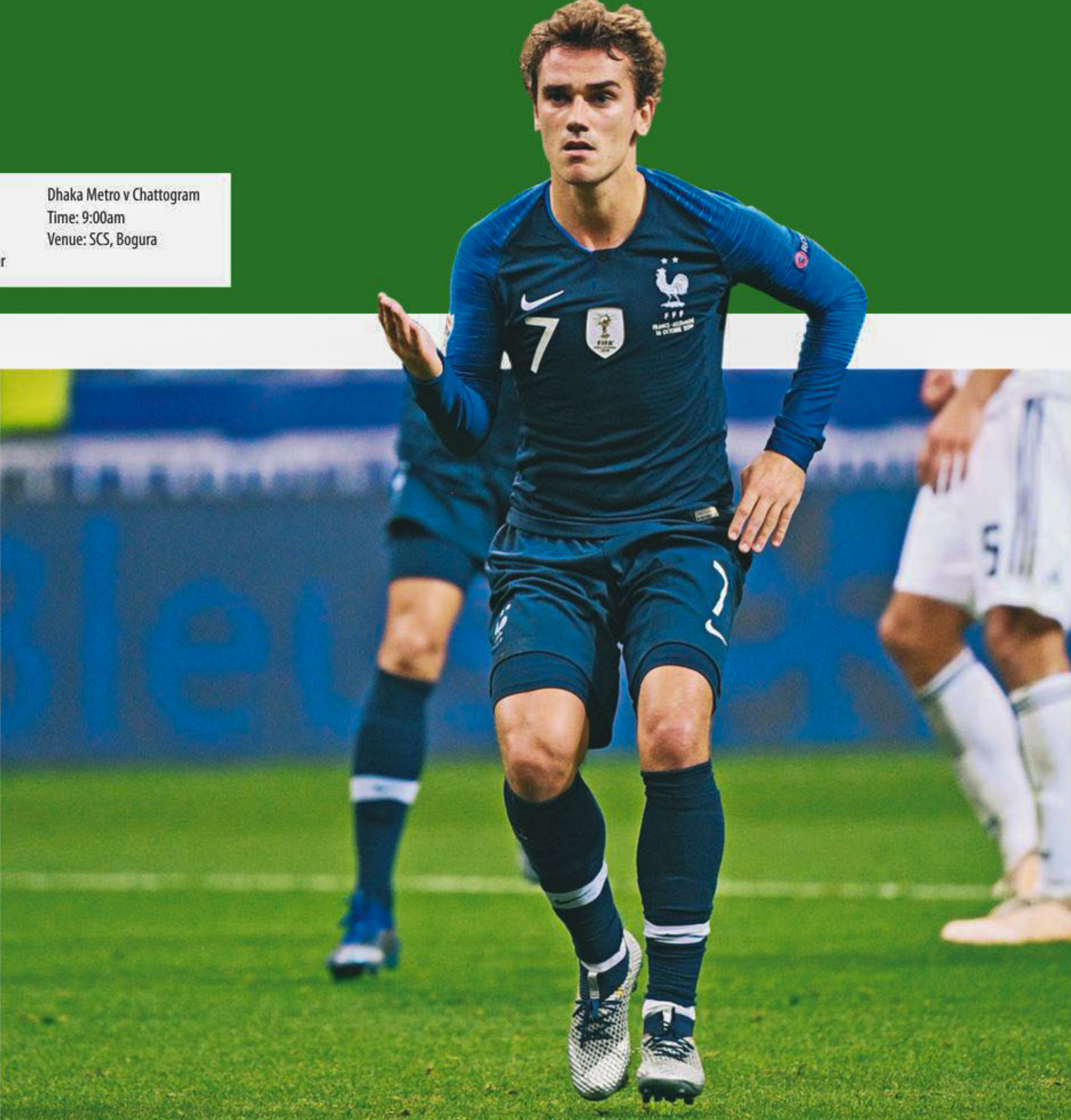
Antoine Griezmann hit a pair of second-half goals, including the winner from the spot, as France recovered from falling behind to a Toni Kroos penalty to inflict a sixth defeat on Germany in their past 10 matches.

The result eliminated Germany from Nations League title contention, and left them needing to beat the Netherlands in their final group match on November 19 if they are to avoid relegation from the top tier.

However, Loew insisted he was "very pleased" with the performance as Germany were much improved compared to the team that lost 3-0 against the Netherlands.

"I'm disappointed with the result, although I must say the defeat is different to Saturday's," said Loew. "Not because of the result but because of the performance. I'm very pleased with the performance.

"I think we were on an even level with



Antoine Griezmann struck twice, first with a sublime header and again from the spot, as world champions France bounced back from a goal down to inflict a record sixth defeat of the calendar year on Germany. PHOTO: COLLECTED

England take 2-0 lead against SL

STAR SPORT DESK

England took a 2-0 lead in the five-match one-day series against Sri Lanka following a thumping.....wicket victory in the rain-curtailed third ODI in Kandy yesterday.

Skipper Eoin Morgan scored an unbeaten 49-ball 58 as the visitors chased down a target of 151 with 15 balls to spare in the 21-over-per-side match. Opening batsman Jason Roy (41 off 26) and all-rounder Ben Stokes (35 not out) played two valuable knocks in the run-chase.

Earlier, Adil Rashid and Tom Curran shared seven wickets between them to help restrict Sri Lanka to 150 for 9 in allotted 21 over.

Put in to bat after nearly six hours of play was lost due to rain, the hosts were off to a breezy start courtesy of a 20-ball 36 from Niroshan Dickwella in the 21-over-a-side contest.

But Rashid helped England bounce back with wickets at crucial junctures as he claimed four from his five overs of leg-spin.

The left-handed Dickwella put on 57 runs off 33 deliveries with opener partner Sadeera Samarawickrama, who also made a brisk 35.

Fast bowler Curran got Dickwella caught at mid-off to check Sri Lanka's surge. Curran returned figures of 3-17 from his four overs.

Rashid hit Sri Lanka hard with the wickets of Samarawickrama and Thisara Perera for nought in consecutive deliveries to be on a hat-trick.

Skipper Dinesh Chandimal played out the hat-trick ball and stayed on to make 34 crucial runs before falling to Curran in the final over.

The opening game was washed out, and the tourists won the second rain-shortened game.

SNAPSHOTS OF A DISASTROUS YEAR



TAKING MONEY FROM TWO CLUBS Complaints against 4 players

SPORTS REPORTER

Although Bangladesh football has stepped into 12th year of professional football, with two tiers of professional league being played regularly, the country's clubs and footballers are yet to act like professionals as far as transfer is concerned.

Complaints against footballers of taking money from more than one club have become a regular phenomenon during the pre-season transfer window.

This time too, allegations have been brought against four players so far as defending Bangladesh Premier League champions Abahani lodged complaint against last season's centre-back Nasiruddin Chowdhury, who was allegedly took Tk 3 lakh from the club before signing up with newcomers Bashundhara Kings.

Rahmatganj MFS complained that winger Habibur Rahman Shohag took Tk 50 thousand from the club in a bid to play for the Old Dhaka outfit this season, but he stayed with his previous club Mohammedan SC.

Team BJMC brought allegations against defender Khan Mohammad Tara and striker Pashban Mollah, both of whom allegedly signed internal agreements with BJMC before eventually signing up with Brothers Union and Mohammedan SC respectively.

Professional Football League's manager Zaber Bin Taher Ansari informed that he has verbally informed the Players' Status Committee about all allegations and that the committee is likely to sit next week to resolve the issue.

"According to the bylaws, if any player is found guilty of taking money from more than one club, he has to face punishment. If the player and the club fail to reach an amicable solution

within 72 hours, then the player, who is found guilty to have taken money from both clubs, has to face one-year suspension. In case of failure to return money to the respective clubs within a week will earn them another one-year suspension," Zaber said, adding that most cases in the past were solved amicably.

Last year, Abahani had brought allegations against five players – Tapu Barman, Jewel Rana, Shakil Ahmed, Hemanta Vincent Biswas and Ariful Islam, who joined Saif SC despite taking money from Abahani. The Sky Blue however failed to retain the services any of those five players following amicable solution. Sheikh Russel KC also complained against Jamal Bhuiyan but their case was deemed invalid.

So far no player has been punished for taking money from more than one club during the transfer window as the Players' Status Committee forced the players to reach an amicable solution with clubs.

PROPOSED TRI-SERIES BFF sends invites to Bhutan, SL

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday unofficially approached Bhutan and Sri Lanka to participate in a proposed tri-nation tournament in Bangladesh during the FIFA window from November 12-20.

"I have talked to the general secretaries of Bhutan and Sri Lankan football federations over phone and verbally invited them to take part in a tri-nation tournament also including hosts Bangladesh. They have asked me to send invitation letters officially, and they would inform us of their decision on Friday," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

"If they turn down our invites, we will communicate with other nations to make it happen," Shohag said.

If the BFF can arrange the tri-nation tournament, all the three teams will get to play each other once as a nation can play a maximum of two matches during the available FIFA window.

The game's local governing body wants to use the FIFA window in a bid to give more exposure to the national football team, which recently showed signs of improvement in three successive tournaments -- Asian Games, SAFF Championship and Bangabandhu Gold Cup.

SHORT CORNER

Iran prosecutor says no repeat of women at football matches

Iran's prosecutor general said Wednesday there would be no repeat of women watching football matches inside stadiums, saying it would "lead to sin".

The comments by Mohammad Jafar Montazeri came a day after around 100 women were allowed to watch their country take on Bolivia in a friendly at the national stadium -- an extremely rare step in the Islamic republic.

"I object to the presence of women in Azadi Stadium yesterday. We are a Muslim state, we are Muslims," Montazeri said, according to the conservative Mehr news agency. "We will deal with any official who wants to allow women inside stadiums under any pretext," he added.

"When a woman goes to a stadium and is faced with half-naked men in sports clothes and sees them it will lead to sin."

Federation Cup from Oct 27

The season's curtain-raising tournament Federation Cup has been deferred by five days as it will start from October 27 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium after the participating clubs sought more time for their preparation.

The season was supposed to get underway from October 22 nearly eight months of gap since the completion of last season's Independence Cup.

"After the clubs demanded deferment of the Federation Cup by a few days for preparation, we deferred it by five days for the clubs' interest," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

A total of 13 participating teams, split into four groups, will be playing group-stage matches and top two teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals.

Ronaldo's lawyer "satisfied" after Vegas PD meeting

Cristiano Ronaldo's lawyer has met with Las Vegas police department detectives investigating allegations of sexual assault including the Juventus forward and is apparently "satisfied" with the outcome, according to reports in the Portuguese and Italian media.

Peter Christiansen, who Ronaldo hired in response to claims made by Kathryn Mayorga that the player allegedly raped her in 2009, "seemed satisfied with what he saw" during his meeting with investigators and is "convinced that the matter will be concluded with a positive result" and the innocence of his client established, Correio de Manhã reported.

After allowing women in to see a screening of Iran's World Cup matches earlier this year, around 100 women were allowed into the Azadi Stadium in Tehran on Tuesday to see a friendly between Iran and Bolivia. It was the first time in 37 years that women were allowed to watch a live match in the stadium.

Soumya to lead BCB XI

Soumya Sarkar is going to captain Bangladesh XI against Zimbabwe in a one-day practice match at BKSP on 19th October.

Soumya was left out of the ODI squad for the series against Zimbabwe but has been in good touch with bat and ball. His latest exploits saw him bag five wickets in an innings yesterday, following it up with 71 in the second innings to go with his 76 in the first dig of the NCL match against Rangpur.

Bangladesh ODI squad members to feature in the match will be newcomer Fazle Rabbi, Ariful Haque and Mohammad Saifuddin. The ODI series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will begin on October 21.

BCB XI Squad: Soumya Sarker (Captain), Mizanur Rahman, Fazle Rabbi Mahmud, Mosaddek Hossain, Zakir Hossain, Ariful Haque, Afif Hossain, Mohammad Saifuddin, Yeasin Mishu, Ebadot Hossain Chowdhury, Morshedul Akhter, Nayeem Hasan

Even Messi would struggle in this Man Utd team, says Scholes

Paul Scholes says even Lionel Messi would struggle to shine in the current Manchester United team.

"I don't think there's a lack of quality there," said Scholes. "I do think they miss a couple of real class players that other top teams seem to have -- a link player between the midfield and the forwards and also a controlling midfield player.

"It feels like every player who comes into the team struggles. I feel like we could sign Lionel Messi at the moment and he'd struggle in this team."

CMP plans foolproof security of cricket matches

Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) have taken measures to provide foolproof security during the two ODIs between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe and a Test between the hosts and West Indies in the port city over the next two months.

The matches are scheduled to be held at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Addressing the media after holding a meeting with all the concerned bodies, CMP commissioner Mahbubur Rahman said the CMP had chalked out all kinds of preparations to ensure safety.

He added that police personnel would work around the venues and hotels where the cricketers would be staying.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Abbas destroys Australia

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Medium pacer Mohammad Abbas registered a five-wicket haul to steer Pakistan into a dominating position in the second Test against Australia in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Abbas finished with five for 33 to bowl out Australia for a paltry 145 to give Pakistan a 137-run lead in the first innings on the second day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Pakistan stretched that lead to 281 as they were 144 for two at close, with Azhar Ali not out on 54 for his first half century in the series and Haris Sohail was 17 not out.

With eight wickets in hand Pakistan were in a great position to force a 1-0 lead in the two-match series after the first Test ended in a fighting draw in Dubai last week.

Azhar, who fell for disappointing scores of 18, four and 15 in the last three innings, batted with resolve, having hit three boundaries.

But it was once again debutant Fakhar Zaman who lifted Pakistan with a brilliant 66 following up his 94 in the first innings, before giving a return catch to Nathan Lyon.

Zaman hit seven boundaries in an enter-

prising knock.

Mohammad Hafeez, who scored a hundred in the drawn first Test, fell to a lazy shot off pacer Mitchell Starc, caught for six.

Earlier, Abbas and spinner Bilal Asif (3-23) wrecked Australia for 145 in their innings.

Abbas had Shaun Marsh, in the fourth over of the day, for three and Travis Head for 14 before wrapping up the innings by trapping Starc leg-before for 34. This becomes Abbas's third five-wicket haul in a career of 10 Tests.

Asif had removed Aaron Finch and in the last over before lunch trapped Tim Paine leg-before for three.

Marnus Labuschagne offered some resistance during his 25 before falling to a freakish run out, backing up too far as a drive from Starc was deflected to the stumps by Yasir Shah with Labuschagne out of his crease.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 282

AUSTRALIA: First innings 145 (Finch 39, Labuschagne 25, Starc 34; Abbas 5-33, Asif 3-23)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 144 for 2 (Fakhar 66, Azhar 54 not out, Sohail 17 not out; Starc 1-22, Lyon 1-59)



Pakistan medium pacer Mohammad Abbas (C) is congratulated by teammates after picking up his third five-wicket haul in a short 10-Test career against Australia at the end of the second day of the second Test in Abu Dhabi yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED