

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1

ICC Women's World T20

West Indies v Sri Lanka

Live from 6:00am

Australia v India

Live from 9:00pm

Ireland v New Zealand

Live from 2:00am (Sunday)

SONY ESPN

Sri Lanka v England

Second Test, Day Four

Live from 10:30am

TEN 2

Pakistan v New Zealand

First Test, Day Two

Live from 12:00pm

UEFA Nations League

Serbia v Montenegro

Live from 8:00pm

Turkey v Sweden

Live from 11:00pm

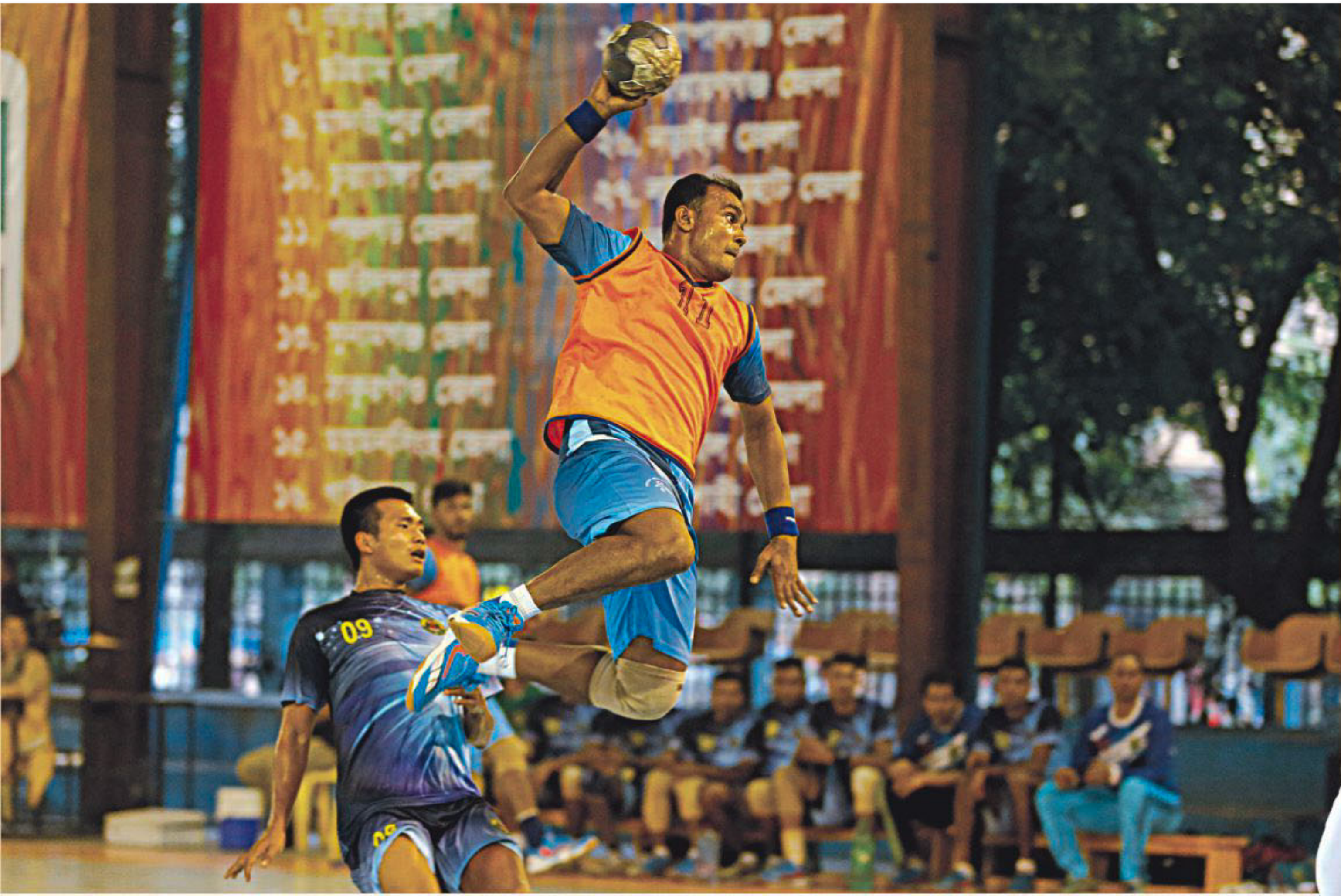
Italy v Portugal

Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

COUTINHO VISITS SALAH'S PHYSIO

Philippe Coutinho has travelled to Benicassim to place himself in the hands of physiotherapist Ruben Pons, whom he knows because they both met at Liverpool. In fact, Pons was also in charge of Mohamed Salah's recovery ahead of last season's Champions League final. The Brazilian took advantage of the visit to the Valencian Community to taste the local delicacies, as evidenced by his posts on social media. A small break in the femoral biceps of Coutinho's left leg will see him out for another two weeks.

-- AGENCIES



There were many such action-packed moments yesterday in the second semifinal of the 28th National Men's Handball Championships at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali Stadium, where Police beat Ansar 27-22 to set up a final against BGB.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Federer cruises into last four

AFP, London

Roger Federer gained sweet revenge over Kevin Anderson at the ATP Finals on Thursday but is putting thoughts of his 100th title to the back of his mind after both players reached the last four.

The Swiss broke the giant South African's serve four times in a comprehensive 6-4, 6-3 victory even though Anderson had not faced a single break point in his two earlier round-robin victories.

Second seed Federer suffered a painful loss at the hands of Anderson in the Wimbledon quarterfinals this year after leading by two sets, his only defeat against him in five meetings before Thursday's clash.

The six-time champion started the week with an uncharacteristically ragged display in a straight-sets defeat by Kei Nishikori but has beaten Dominic Thiem and Anderson in straight sets and is looking more like his old self as the tournament progresses.

The victory over Anderson takes Federer through to the semifinals for the 15th time in 16 attempts at the season-ending finale and means he will likely avoid a last-four meeting against Novak Djokovic.

"I'm happy that this is another week like this," said Federer. "Didn't look like it maybe 72 hours ago. But I was able to come back and play good tennis."

"Personally I'm still not thinking of the number 100. I won't let that get in my head, make me go crazy because it should be something I'm excited about and not something I should feel extra pressure."

"As long as I think Novak is in the draw anyhow, he's playing so good again, it's never going to be easy."

The first set was a topsy-turvy affair, with both players quickly into their groove on serve before a succession of breaks.

Federer, buoyed by his vocal support, broke to lead 4-3, only to lose his momentum as Anderson levelled. The Swiss broke the South African in the next game, sealing the break with a crisp backhand volley.

The second set went with serve until the seventh game, when Federer produced an immaculate sliced backhand that landed on the line to earn a break.

Now playing with freedom, the 37-year-old broke again to seal the victory and guarantee that he tops the group.



Roger Federer advanced to the semifinals of the ATP World Tour Finals with a simple 6-4, 6-3 win against Kevin Anderson yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## NATIONAL MEN'S HANDBALL

# Police, BGB in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) set up a final clash in the Exim Bank 28th Men's National Handball Championship after winning their respective semifinal matches at the Shaheed Captain M Mansur Ali Stadium in Paltan yesterday.

BGB had a comfortable victory over Bandarban in the first semifinal as they cantered to a 50-22 goal win, having led the first half by 19-9 goals. Shadhon Barua and Imdadul Haque scored seven goals apiece for the winning side while Taju Hasan of the same team was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

The second semifinal between Police and Ansar, though, proved to be a cliff-hanger, which was eventually won 27-22 by Police. The winners led the first half by 12-11 goals while Mahbubul Alam scored highest 10 goals for them. Police goalkeeper Abdul Gafur was named the player-of-the-match for his brilliant performance between the sticks.

The final will be held at the same venue at 3:00pm today where Bangladesh Bank Association chairman Nazrul Islam and Exim Bank MD Dr. Mohammad Haider Ali will be present as dignitaries.

# Rooney says farewell in USA drubbing

AFP, London



England in a 3-0 win over the United States in a friendly at Wembley on Thursday.

England's all-time top scorer Rooney came on 58th-minute substitute, to roar the crowd,

There was no farewell goal but plenty of pride and appreciation as Wayne Rooney made his 120th and final appearance for England.

England's all-time top scorer as a substitute from the team 2-0 up thanks to first-half



strikes from Jesse Lingard and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

The game, played in front of a well-below capacity crowd of 68,155, had been billed as a tribute match to Rooney and he was given a guard of honour by both sets of players and received a presentation from the Football Association before kick-off.

The 33-year-old former Manchester United and Everton forward did not have a major impact on the game but forced goalkeeper Brad Guzan into a save in stoppage time.

A 54th goal for England would have been the perfect way to bow out but it was typical of Rooney's modest approach to the match that he never tried to create chances for himself, instead showcasing, for a final time at Wembley, his passing ability.

"Tonight was great, a great way to finish my international career, I thought the lads played great. Unfortunately I couldn't get a goal but I'll remember it for a long time," Rooney said.

"I've had my time, I can sit back and watch them now and it's my opinion that England are in very safe hands from what I've seen."

Bournemouth striker Callum Wilson, making his England debut, made it 3-0 in the 77th minute to complete a fine night for the debut starters.

England manager Gareth Southgate said he was pleased with his team's display and with the send-off for Rooney.

Wayne Rooney made his 120th and final appearance for England as the Three Lions cruised to a 3-0 win against the United States at Wembley on Thursday. Although he could not add to the 53 goals that have made him England's all-time record goalscorer, the striker was given the armband and a huge round of applause after being introduced as a 58th-minute substitute.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## SHORT CORNER

### 'No rivalry between Griezmann and Mbappe'

France coach Didier Deschamps insisted there was no rivalry between stars Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann.

The pair have been in fine form recently and had led the line as France marched to the World Cup in 2018. They are now contenders for this year's Ballon d'Or, but Deschamps insists there is no rivalry there.

"No, there has never been any contradiction between them or one who wants to do more than the other one," Deschamps told a news conference.

"They have been important, one after the other at a different time and also sometimes together."

"They are determining as they score goals and make a lot of goals. There is no struggle between them."

"The fact they are both here with us, but not only them because there are other players, but it's a strong power for France."



EVERY CULE'S DREAM: To celebrate a 20-year partnership with FC Barcelona, Nike will be releasing this limited-edition commemorative jersey which will feature design elements from every Barcelona jersey over the past two decades.

PHOTO: NIKE

### 'My best year, with or without Ballon d'Or'

Luka Modric feels 2018 has been the best year of his career even if he does not win the Ballon d'Or. Modric's fine performances at the World Cup earned him the Golden Ball, while he won a third consecutive Champions League crown with Real Madrid earlier in the year. However, Modric was not interested in the debate of whether he could break the Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi duopoly of the award.

"Let's see what happens," Modric said after Croatia's 3-2 Nations League defeat of Spain. "I'm very proud to fight for it. If I win perfect, otherwise it will not change anything."

"With or without the Ballon d'Or, it's the best year of my career."

-- AGENCIES

**Bangla Tribune win media cricket**  
Bangla Tribune emerged champions of the Step-Bangladesh Sports Journalists Community (BSJC) Media Cup cricket tournament after beating Channel i by four wickets in the final in Dhaka yesterday.

Batting first, Channel i posted 81 for four wickets in their allotted six overs, with Sajib Das top-scoring with 37 and Rahul Ray adding 24. Bangla Tribune reached the target losing just a single wicket and with five balls to spare. Bangla Tribune's Abul was adjudged player-of-the-final for his 43-run knock while Channel i's Sajib was adjudged as the player-of-the-tournament. The champion team received Tk 30,000 while the runners-up team got Tk20,000. A total of 24 teams participated in the tournament.

-- SPORTS REPORTER

**World Children's Day cricket**  
To mark World Children's Day, a friendly match has been organised jointly by the BCB and UNICEF.

A mixed team of underprivileged adolescent cricketers will play against past and present cricketers of the national men and women's team.

The team will comprise of former national greats such as Naimur Rahman Durjoy, Akram Khan, Minhajul Abedin and Habibul Bashhar Hannan Sarkar. Taskin Ahmed will represent the Tigers while women's national team pacer Suraiya Azmin will also be taking part among others.

The match will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium today.

-- SPORTS REPORTER

# Windies banking on balance in familiar conditions

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh started the recently concluded Zimbabwe

series knowing that they had their opposition's number. However, they will not have that cushion of confidence against their next Test opposition, West Indies, against whom they lost abjectly in the Caribbean in July this year.

West Indies, meanwhile, will be looking to acclimatise quickly and recover from the loss of their captain Jason Holder to injury shortly before they set off for Bangladesh. In his absence, doughty batsman Kraigg Brathwaite will lead the team in the first Test starting in Chattogram on November 22 and before that, lead the side in a two-day practice game against a BCB XI from tomorrow.

"We are looking forward [to the series]," Brathwaite told reporters yesterday at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. "It won't be an easy series but we will be working hard."

The West Indies squad came separately, with the first wave of players reaching Dhaka on Wednesday and the rest arriving on Thursday. As they were resting it was not a full squad practis-



West Indies all-rounder Roston Chase will be expected to do a lot of bowling during the Tests against Bangladesh starting on November 22.

PHOTO: STAR

ing yesterday, and Brathwaite said that he expected the full squad training together today.

In the two Tests at home, the West Indies pace attack had shot through the Bangladesh lineup in both Tests and subjected the Tigers to their lowest ever Test total of 43 in Antigua. On spin-friendly pitches in Bangladesh, however, it will be a little tougher, especially as West Indies suffered a humbling of their own in similar conditions in India last month.

He hoped that the experience in

that series would stand them in good stead for this one.

"I think it's quite similar to India, so that is good for us. Also we have a game coming so that could give us a feel of the conditions here. We are a balanced team. Spinners will do a good job. We have world-class pacers and I think as a team both in batting and bowling, we are equipped to do our job."

He however would not be drawn into who was the favourite to win the two-Test series.

"Cricket is played on the day, so whichever way it goes on the day."

# We must make Copa final, says Tite

GOAL.COM

Brazil coach Tite says anything less than an appearance in next year's Copa America final will be considered a failure for his team.

Tite's side will go into the competition as favourites, particularly with Brazil hosting the event for the first time since 1989.

The Selecao have not reached a Copa America final since 2007 - when they beat Argentina - and Tite says it is imperative they return to the showpiece next year.

"We must play very well and we must win, we must be champions," he told a news conference ahead of Friday's friendly with Uruguay. "At a minimum, we must reach the final."

"And, before that, have a good performance. I say it because we culturally live in a country that lives football."

He added: "I want to do my best in my daily job."

"I want to be the best version of me, I want to improve, to give opportunities through my work."

"The time I'll have... I don't know."