

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

STAR SPORTS 1

ICC Women's World T20

Bangladesh v South Africa

Live from 6:00am

TEN 2

Pakistan v New Zealand

First Test, Day Four

Live from 12:00pm

SONY ESPN

International Friendly

Qatar v Iceland

Live from 12:30am (Tuesday)

Federation Cup

Semifinal

Dhaka Abahani v Sheikh Jamal

Time: 5:00pm

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

JORDAN KEEPER SCORES PAST INDIA

Jordan goalkeeper Amer Shafi had a match to remember in a friendly against India, beating counterpart Gurpreet Singh Sandhu with a drop-kick from his own penalty area. Shafi had the ball in his hands in the 25th minute after a boot down the field from Gurpreet went all the way through to his opposite number in Saturday's meeting in Amman. But few onlookers could have expected what happened next. Shafi's drop-kick bounced just outside India's box and Gurpreet misjudged the flight and allowed the ball to bounce straight over his head. Although the Indian raced back frantically, he could only palm the ball into his own net. Bolstered by that opener, Jordan won the match at King Abdullah International Stadium 2-1.

AGENCIES

Zverev stuns Djokovic

AGENCIES, London

ATP TOUR

Alexander Zverev became the youngest champion at the ATP World Tour Finals in a decade on Sunday, stunning World No. 1 Novak Djokovic 6-4, 6-3 to lift the biggest title of his career.

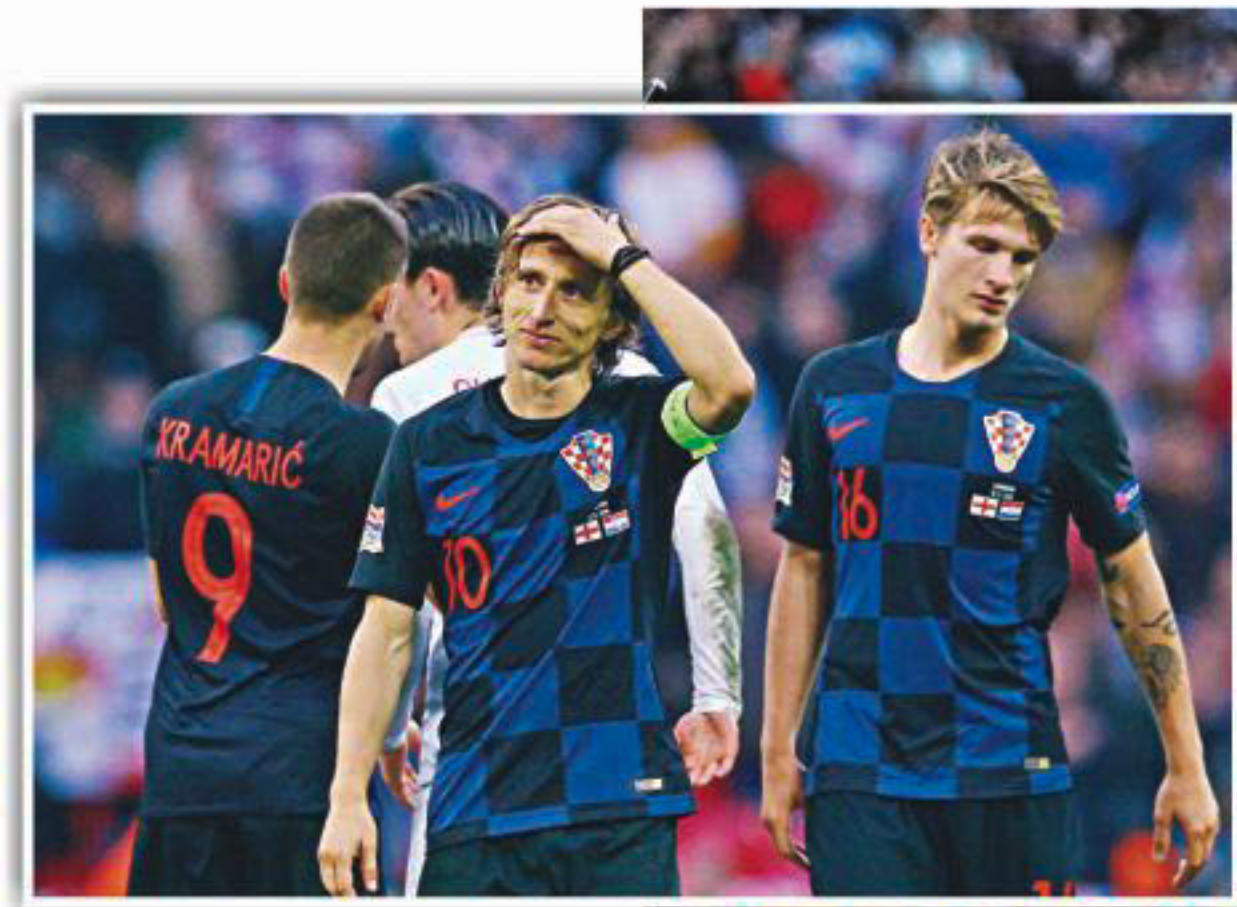
The 21-year-old, the youngest player to triumph at the season finale since Djokovic in 2008, was already the first German to reach the championship match at the season finale since 1996, when Boris Becker did it.

And now Zverev is the first player from his country to lift the trophy since Becker did so in 1995, dashing Djokovic's hopes of a perfect ending to a fairytale season in which he returned from a right elbow injury back to No. 1 in the ATP Rankings.

One year ago, Zverev made his debut at London's O2 Arena, falling short of reaching the semifinals. But he showed his growth in a straight-sets victory over six-time champion Roger Federer on Saturday.

Entering the match, all signs were pointing to Djokovic tying Federer's record of six triumphs at the season finale. The Serbian had won 35 of his previous 37 matches and all 36 of his service games this week at. Four days ago, he had beaten Zverev with the loss of just five games in round-robin play.

But from the first point of the match, Zverev showed no fear, standing on the baseline and trading blows with Djokovic, who for the first time all tournament appeared to be scrambling, and not the in-control defensive wall that had diffused attacks from the very best players in the world.



England captain Harry Kane dived in and diverted a loose ball home with his outstretched leg to score a dramatic 85th-minute winner in their UEFA Nations League to condemn World Cup finalists Croatia to relegation. (IN-SET) The Luka Modric-led side were left to rue the fact that they squandered a one-goal lead.

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Premier League after election

SPORTS REPORTER

The upcoming Bangladesh Premier League has been pushed back to January next year owing to December's parliamentary elections even though the football season will continue through the Independence Cup.

The top-tier professional football league was scheduled to get underway from November 30 while the Independence Cup was scheduled to be held in between the league fixtures, following the European format. However, the professional football league committee backtracked from its decision after the participating clubs appealed to defer the league citing general elections.

"Due to demand of the participating clubs, we have pushed back the league and we will hold a week after the completion of general elections as the team will have to travel with their foreign players across the country. However, we have brought forward the Independence Cup which is starting from Nov 30," informed BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

The 12-team league is expected to be held in eight separate venues for the first time even though Sheikh Russel KC have withdrawn its venue from Chittagong and are preferring to play in either Dhaka or Cox's Bazar.

## Kane relegates Croatia

AFP, Wembley



Gareth Southgate hailed England's maturity and resilience as Harry Kane fired his side into the Nations League semi-finals with a dramatic 2-1 win over Croatia on Sunday.

England were on the brink of relegation to the second tier of the competition after Andrej Kramaric gave Croatia the lead against the run of play in the second half at Wembley.

But Southgate's vibrant young side pulled off a stirring escape act in the closing stages to gain a measure of revenge for their World Cup semi-final defeat against Croatia earlier this year.

Jesse Lingard came off the bench to poach England's equaliser and captain Kane was on hand to turn in the winner with five minutes left.

England's fightback took them to the top of Group A4, above Spain and relegated Croatia, and they can look forward to playing in the last four in June next year.

"I'm hugely proud. We've grown together. We've improved every step," Southgate said. "This was another big occasion. There was plenty of pressure on the game but we coped really well.

"We had good chances and should have

been ahead. Then we had to show resilience to stay in the game. We saw the game through with some maturity.

"They should be very proud of what they have done. This is a significant step for us."

It was a cathartic moment for England, who have made a habit of suffering painful defeats against Croatia, with this year's World Cup woe following the 2007 loss that cost them a place at Euro 2008.

More importantly, the performance provided tangible proof that Southgate is building a team capable of challenging for major prizes after years of under-achievement.

Southgate and his players have changed perceptions of the England team among a previously jaded sporting public over the last year and the Three Lions coach took pride in the jubilant response of fans to their victory.

"The most pleasing thing was the connection with the fans. I haven't heard Wembley like that for years," he said. "We've given the fans some memorable days and nights this year. That energy really came back to the team when we needed it at the end today."

England's appearance in the semi-finals of the Nations League offers another chance to reach their first major final since 1966.

Following the 3-2 Nations League win over Spain in Seville last month, this tournament has been a serious statement of

intent from Southgate's team and they will go into 2019 with great expectations.

"Slowly we are starting to beat those top teams. We have learned so much from this year, because you have to be close to perfect to beat those teams."

Despite dominating the first half, England fell behind in the 56th minute.

Kramaric was allowed time and space to turn in the area and the Hoffenheim forward took full advantage, clipping a shot that deflected off Eric Dier and in.

But England kept their composure, equalising in the 78th minute when Lingard tapped-in from Joe Gomez's long throw.

England's deserved winner arrived in the 85th minute. Ben Chilwell curled over a teasing low free-kick and Kane timed his run to perfection, guiding his shot past Lovre Kalinic from close-range.

Croatia boss Zlatko Dalic claimed his side had paid the price for their exertions in Thursday's win against Spain.

"It was very difficult for us to recover after the match against Spain. We don't have such a big squad," he said. "In the last 15 minutes we lost concentration, which could be down to our condition physically."

Referencing a popular England fans' song, Dalic backed Southgate's team to fulfil their potential soon. "They have a young and fast team. It's coming home, very soon!," he said.

### SHORT CORNER

#### National Youth Archery starts today

Teer 2nd National Youth Archery Championships will get underway at the Shaheed Ansanullah Master Stadium in Tongi today.

A total of 56 young archers -- 39 boys and 17 girls -- from six clubs and institutes will take part in the two-day championships. The archers will compete in two categories -- under-20 and under-17 age group category in both male and female sections.

All these information were disclosed at a press conference yesterday at the Bangladesh Olympic Association where Bangladesh Archery Federation's general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed was present among others.

#### A departed fan's unusual request

A Juventus fan had an unusual request on his funeral notice, asking to be sent goals from Cristiano Ronaldo rather than flowers.

The 77-year-old, nicknamed Il Doro, died on Thursday and his funeral was held on Saturday afternoon. As is customary in Italy, a poster was printed up and placed in the town of Fornaci di Barga, near Lucca, to announce his death.

"Mario Stefanini, 'Il Doro', aged 77. His children and family announce the sad news. The funeral will be on Saturday at the Loppia cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please send CR7 goals."

There is a trend now to urge charity donations in lieu of flowers, although it remains to be seen if Ronaldo will have a special dedication for the dearly departed fan.

-- AGENCIES

#### Djokovic bats for his chauffeur

Serbian tennis ace Novak Djokovic has proposed a strong candidate for the England cricket team in the form of his chauffeur, Imran Bashir.

"Imran Bashir (my chauffeur for the ATP Finals) has been part of #TeamDjokovic for 10 years! He is also a famous batsman for his local cricket team. He received this trophy for best batsman of the year and we need to get it out there!" Djokovic tweeted.

"#TrevorBayliss @englandcricket, you should keep your eye on Imran. I think he is a strong candidate for your team," another tweet read.

#### 'Unfair' to only criticise De Gea, says Enrique

Luis Enrique has branded criticism of David de Gea "unfair" but declined to reveal whether the under-pressure goalkeeper will remain a starter for Spain.

De Gea was closely scrutinised for his part in Tin Jedvaj's late winner in the costly 3-2 defeat to Croatia in the Nations League on Thursday.

"What's strange is what the criticism means. Criticism must be for the whole team and the coach, too," he told reporters. "When it's aimed at one person it's unfair because this is a team sport."

"Goals aren't just scored because of the goalkeepers -- when we concede we're all responsible. It's unfair to personalise it, but we accept criticism."

"I won't put my players on trial. I analyse things in a general sense and from there I make decisions. I won't talk about my preferences, as my actions speak louder than words."

-- AGENCIES

#### Teen fractures spine in Macau crash

A 17-year-old female teenage driver suffered a fractured spine when her car flew off the track in a horrifying crash at the Formula Three Macau Grand Prix on Sunday.

Van Amersfoort Racing's Sophia Floersch was conscious and stable after the smash when her car became airborne and hurtled into a marshals and photographers' area. Japanese driver Sho Tsuboi, two photographers and a marshal were also taken to hospital.

"All were conscious during transit to the hospital and are now receiving medical treatment. Further updates will be provided as soon as possible," said the Macau Grand Prix Organising Committee in a statement.

-- AFP

## Loew look to soften 'slap in the face' year



AFP, Gelsenkirchen



Germany want to end their 'slap in the face' year by beating the Netherlands in Gelsenkirchen on Monday and preventing the Dutch reaching the Nations League knock-out phase.

The Netherlands need just one point to qualify for the semi-finals after their 2-0 win over France on Friday, which confirmed Germany's relegation to the 'B' league.

However, a victory for Germany in their final game of 2018 would hand first place and a semifinal berth in Group 1 to France.

After losing 3-0 away to the Dutch last month -- one of a record six defeats the Germans have suffered in 2018 -- head coach Joachim Loew needs a moral-boosting win as he rebuilds his team in the wake of their World Cup disaster.

"We have a point to prove and will do everything to win this match," said Loew in Sunday's press conference. "It's a shame for us that we can no longer turn the situation in the group, now we have to learn the right lessons and make the most of a disappointing year."

"We want to sign off with another strong performances to prove we are on the right track."

We have been one of the most consistent teams over the last 10 years - this year was a real slap in the face, which was disappointing, but now it goes on.

JOACHIM LOEW  
GERMANY COACH

"We have been one of the most consistent teams over the last 10 years - this year was a real slap in the face, which was disappointing, but now it goes on."

Germany are rebuilding after a woeful World Cup when they crashed out after the group stages in Russia. A youthful team, with an average age of just 24, beat Russia 3-0 in Leipzig last Thursday.

Goals by Leroy Sane, Serge Gnabry and Niklas Sule saw off the Russians in a friendly, but Loew is likely to name a more experienced side against the Dutch.

Toni Kroos and Mats Hummels, both 2014 World Cup winners, are expected to come into the midfield and defence respectively.

Loew says he wants to see Germany take their chances against Ronald Koeman's revitalised Dutch, who inflicted a first defeat on France since their World Cup triumph with Georginio Wijnaldum and Memphis Depay scoring in Rotterdam.

"At the World Cup, our game lacked momentum and the killer instinct, we played too wide and we must focus more on attacking the opponents goal," said Loew.

"We are on the right path, but we must continue to improve."



A day after he had dumped out Roger Federer, Alexander Zverev simply outgunned World No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the final of the ATP World Tour Finals.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## England seal series

AFP, Kandy



Captain Joe Root set his sights on taking England to the top of the world rankings after his spin trio finished off

Sri Lanka in the second Test on Sunday to seal the series with a match to spare.

England needed just 30 minutes on the fifth day to take the final three wickets. Jack Leach got last man Malinda Pushpakumara to claim his first five-wicket Test haul.

Moeen Ali took four wickets and Adil Rashid one as England's three frontline spinners accounted for the whole innings, as well as 18 of Sri Lanka's 20 in the game overall.

Root's 124 in the second innings also played a key role in the 57-run victory and earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Celebrating England's first away series win since beating South Africa in 2015-16 and his first away triumph as captain, Root sees England -- who are ranked third in the world -- challenging India for the top Test team spot.



England bowler Jack Leach (C) celebrates with teammates after dismissing Sri Lanka's Dilruwan Perera during the fifth day of their second Test against Sri Lanka in Kandy yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP