

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

GTV & MAASRANGA

Bangladesh Premier League

Phase Four

Khulna Titans v Sylhet Sixers

Live from 1:30pm

Chittagong Vikings v Rajshahi Kings

Live from 6:30pm

STAR SPORTS 1

New Zealand v India

Second ODI

Live from 8:00am

SONY SIX

Australia v Sri Lanka

First Test, Day Three

Live from 9:00am

Serie A

AC Milan v Napoli

Live from 1:30pm

TEN 1

West Indies v England

First Test, Day Four

Live from 8:00pm

TEN 2

FA Cup

Man City v Burnley

Live from 9:00pm

La Liga

Valencia v Villarreal

Live from 1:45am

(Sunday)

SONY SIX & Ten 2

Australian Open

Women's Singles Final

Live from 2:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Bundesliga

Dortmund v Hannover

Live from 8:30pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga

Monchengladbach v

Augsburg

Live from 8:30pm

Werder v Eintracht

Live from 11:30pm

Bangladesh Premier League

Phase Four

Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium

Khulna Titans v Sylhet Sixers

Time: 1:30pm

Chittagong Vikings v Rajshahi Kings

Time: 6:30pm

Djokovic finds 'the zone'

Sets up Nadal blockbuster final

AFP, Melbourne

Novak Djokovic said he was "in the zone" and played a "perfect match" Friday to line up a blockbuster Australian Open final against his great rival Rafael Nadal.

"Today was a perfect match for me from the first to the last point," said the Serbian after destroying 28th seed Lucas Pouille 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 in just 83 minutes On Rod Laver Arena.

"I executed everything that I intended to and even more than I have expected," said the world number one after a flawless display put him into a first Melbourne decider since 2016.

"It is definitely one of the best matches I've ever had on this court, definitely," added Djokovic, who hit 24 winners and had just five unforced errors.

"Every professional athlete wants to be in the zone, where everything flows so effortlessly and you are executing automatically everything you are intending to execute," Djokovic said, explaining a sublime performance where he conceded no break point.

"You don't need to think too much. I guess you're driven by some force that takes over you and you feel divine, you feel like in a different dimension. It's quite an awesome feeling that we all try to

reach and stay in."

Pouille was left powerless on the other side of the net.

"I was trying to find a solution, but couldn't find any," lamented the Frenchman.

Djokovic will face second seed Nadal, who he described as his "biggest rival," in a 53rd career meeting and eighth in the final of a Slam.

In 2012 the pair contested the longest Grand Slam final in terms of time at the Australian Open when Djokovic edged an epic battle 7-5 in the fifth set after 5hr 53min.

The Serb ran Pouille ragged so effectively that he dished out a dreaded 6-0 "bagel" in a first set that lasted just 21 minutes.

Pouille held his first service game of the second set to a huge ovation from the centre court fans, but it was an all-too brief respite.

Djokovic lost in the fourth round last year, followed by elbow surgery and poor form until he won Wimbledon and turned his season around.

"It was highly unlikely 12

months ago that I would be where I am today, a year later," said the Serbian top seed.

"But I've said it before, and I always have plenty of belief in myself, and I think the self-belief is something that always prevails."

On Thursday Nadal had allowed his young Greek opponent Stefanos Tsitsipas to win just six games on the way to the final in an hour and 46 minutes.

Djokovic made that look pedestrian, allowing Pouille only four games and taking 23 minutes less to set up a repeat of the pair's epic 2012 showdown.

"He's my biggest rival in my career. I've played so many matches against him, epic matches on this court," said Djokovic of Nadal.

"Of course, the one that stands out was the final of six hours almost in 2012. Hopefully we don't go that long this time."

Nadal holds a 4-3 win-loss record against Djokovic in Grand Slam finals, including all three meetings since their Melbourne Park marathon seven years ago, and both players are chasing milestones on Sunday.

A win for Nadal will see him become the first player in the Open era to win all four Grand Slam titles twice, while victory for Djokovic will take him clear of six-time Melbourne winners Roger Federer and Roy Emerson.

First MSC scalp

for Arambagh

SPORTS REPORTER

Arambagh KS posted their maiden win over Mohammedan SC in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) by handing the Black and Whites a massive 4-1 defeat at the Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

National discard winger Zahid Hossain struck a hattrick to provide Arambagh with reason to celebrate as the side had never before beaten their neighbouring giants in any of their previous 16 meetings since the introduction of the professional football league in 2008. Zahid is the second player to score a hattrick in the ongoing league after Multijoddha Sangsad's Ballo Fomousa of Ivory Coast.

Following poor performances in the Federation Cup and Independence Cup, Mohammedan began their campaign in this edition of the BPL with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Team BJMC. However, they succumbed to defeat again in their second fixture of the tournament against a spirited Arambagh, who came into the match on the back of a 1-0 defeat to Sheikh Russel KC.

Zahid, who last played for the national team in the 2016 Bangabandhu Gold Cup, opened Arambagh's account in the 12th minute by tapping in a square pass from Paul Emil. Mohammedan bounced back strong after resumption with a powerful strike from Kaiser Al Rabbi in the 58th minute.

The equaliser could have helped Mohammedan get hold of the match but it was again Zahid who helped Maruful Haque's side restore their lead with a feeble free-kick which embraced the back of the near post after a single bounce in the 66th minute. Chinedu Mathew then made it 3-1 in the 76th

ARAMBAGH 4-1 MOHAMMEDAN

ZAHID-12, 66, 86
CHINEDU MATHEW-76

BROTHERS 2-3 SK RUSSEL

LIMA LEONARDO-11, 37

KAISER AL RABBI-58

Raphael Odoyin-12, 20
Ashraful Karim-77 (OG)

Qatar stun

South Korea

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Abdelaziz Hatim fired a late winner as Qatar stunned title-chasing South Korea 1-0 to reach the Asian Cup semi-finals for the first time on Friday.

South Korea were looking to end 59 years of hurt in the tournament but missed a string of second-half chances in Abu Dhabi before Hatim's hammer blow after 78 minutes.

It took the Koreans until three minutes into the second half to register a shot on target, Hwang Ui-joo forcing a low save from Saad Al-Sheeb from the edge of the box.

Lee Chung-yong then blazed wide and captain Son Heung-min was denied by Al-Sheeb before Kim Jin-su's free kick smacked against the post.

That wastefulness came back to haunt them when Hatim smashed a long-range rocket past goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu to give the 2022 World Cup hosts a famous victory.

Hwang thought he had equalised two minutes later, only to be given off-side -- a decision upheld by the video assistant referee.

Moses seals

Fenerbahce

move

AFP, London

Chelsea's Nigeria star Victor Moses has joined Fenerbahce on a one-and-a-half-year loan deal.

Moses agreed to make the switch to the Turkish club after falling out of favour under Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri.

The 28-year-old has not featured for Chelsea since October, after making six appearances in all competitions and starting just once.

Moses will stay with Fenerbahce until the end of the 2019-20 season.

"Victor Moses has today joined Fenerbahce on loan until the end of the 2019-20 season," a Chelsea statement said.

Moses moved to Chelsea from Wigan in August 2012, but had loan spells at Liverpool, Stoke and West Ham before finally establishing himself in the team.

SHORT CORNER

Messi makes plea for Sala search to resume

Lionel Messi urged investigators Friday to resume the search for missing striker Emiliano Sala after police called off rescue operations and admitted the chances of finding him were "extremely remote".

Police from Guernsey abandoned the search on Thursday after the light aircraft taking the 28-year-old Argentinian to Wales following his signing with Cardiff City from Ligue 1 side Nantes disappeared from radar near the British island on Monday.

"While there is the possibility, a shred of hope, we ask that you please #NoDejenDeBuscar (don't stop searching) for Emiliano. All my strength to your family and friends," said the Barcelona attacker on Instagram, with the hashtag "#PRAYFORSALA".

PSG sweat over Neymar

Paris Saint-Germain are hoping Neymar's prayers are answered after the runaway Ligue 1 leaders' talisman suffered a fresh metatarsal injury just weeks from their huge Champions clash with Manchester United.

Neymar invoked divine intervention after being forced to leave the field in tears during their 2-0 French Cup win over Strasbourg in midweek with the same injury that curtailed the Brazilian's campaign last season.

"Your will be done, my God" he wrote in an Instagram post.

Although fans in Paris are concerned about the danger of Neymar missing the two games against a rejuvenated United, his absence should not have much impact on PSG's title defence.

China hunts for Lippi successor

Wounded Chinese football was searching for a new national coach on Friday after an angry Marcello Lippi ended his reign with a humiliating exit at the Asian Cup.

The 70-year-old Italian World Cup winner confirmed after Thursday's 3-0 quarter-final defeat to Iran in Abu Dhabi that he would not extend his contract.

Lippi made no effort to hide his displeasure at the nature of the defeat, which came from some calamitous Chinese defending.

"You cannot afford to gift a team like Iran three goals," an exasperated Lippi, fondly known in China as "Silver Fox" on account of his hair, said.

Portugal mulls revoking Ronaldo's honours

Portugal is considering pulling Cristiano Ronaldo's public honours after he was fined millions by Spain for committing tax fraud while at Real Madrid, the country's president said on Thursday.

Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo was awarded the Grand Cross of the Portuguese Order of Merit in 2016, when the national team won the European Championship.

"The law is very simple: it is up to the chancellors of the national orders to see if anything has happened that could lead to the loss of an honour," President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa told reporters.

This means it would be the current chancellor of Portugal's civil Order of Merit, one of several branches of the country's honours system, to decide whether the 33-year-old's conviction is enough to strip him of his honour.

Hosts Brazil were handed a favourable group at the 2019 Copa America draw in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday but arch-rivals Argentina landed a tough appointment with Colombia.

Eight-time winners Brazil, the top seeds in Group A, were given a pool with minnows Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru.

They will kick-off the tournament on June 14 against Bolivia in Sao Paulo.

World Cup hosts Qatar, making their debut in the South American tournament as guests, were not treated kindly by the draw, landing Argentina and Colombia in Group B, as well as Paraguay.

Fellow Asians Japan, making their second appearance after a disappointing debut in 1999, also face a tough task to make it through Group C as they drew record 15-time champions Uruguay, holders Chile and Ecuador.

Brazil, led by coach Tite, come into the tournament looking to make amends on home soil for their World Cup 2014 humiliation when Germany thrashed them 7-1 in the semi-finals.

The hosts, who will have observed with concern a foot injury suffered by star player Neymar for his club Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday, haven't won the Copa America since 2007 and

Brazil given kind draw

Argentina land Colombia

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

Former Brazil superstar Ronaldinho presents the 2019 Copa America football during the draw ceremony in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday.

Centenario in the United States three years ago, and they will again meet in the final pool encounter on June 22 in Sao Paulo.

Argentina's recent major tournament history is of an even greater concern.

Although they have reached four of the last five Copa America finals -- losing to Chile in penalties in the last two -- they haven't claimed any major honors since their success in 1993.

They start their campaign on June 15 in Salvador against Colombia, who

are ranked one place below them in the FIFA rankings and progressed a round further at last year's World Cup in Russia.

Another concern for Argentina is whether or not global icon Lionel Messi will come back to the side for the tournament.

He hasn't played for interim coach Lionel Scaloni who took over the reins after the team's World Cup debacle, missing six friendlies since then.

The final will be played at Rio's iconic Maracana stadium on July 7.

Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos (R) scored twice in their 4-2 win against Girona in the Copa del Rey quarterfinal first leg at the Bernabeu on Thursday.