

# What to WATCH

**SONY SIX**  
England v Pakistan  
Fifth ODI  
Live from 4:00pm

**SONY ESPN**  
**Serie A**  
Chievo v Sampdoria  
Live from 4:30pm

**TEN 1**  
**Serie A**  
Napoli v Inter Milan  
Live from 12:30am (Monday)

**TEN 2**  
**La Liga**  
Real Madrid v Real Betis  
Live from 4:00pm  
**Serie A**  
AC Milan v Frosinone

Live from 10:00pm  
Juventus v Atalanta  
Live from 12:30am (Monday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**Bangladesh Premier League**  
Abahani v Bashundhara  
Time: 7:00pm  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka

# MSC pip Arambagh

Confident Abahani face unbeaten Kings today

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan Sporting Club continued their upward swing in the Bangladesh Premier League with a 1-0 win against neighbours Arambagh KS at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Former national team forward Toklish Ahmed scored the all-important goal in the 16th minute to give the Black and Whites their second consecutive win, following an 11-match winless streak.

The win was a revenge for their 4-1 defeat against Arambagh in the first leg and it helped the Motijheel-based outfit move to 12 points from 14 matches, three above 11th-placed NoFeL Sporting Club. Arambagh, on the other hand, remained in fifth position with 19 points from 13 matches.

The match started from the fourth minute, the time where it was stopped due to a storm on the previous day. And the Black and Whites took only 16 minutes to take the lead when Toklish's sliding effort on a cross from Souleymane Diabate found the net. Another former national team striker, Zahid Hasan Emily, saw two efforts bounce back off the woodwork, but those eventually did not matter as the Black and Whites bagged all three points.

Meanwhile, the 15th round of the league will be wrapped up today with

a potential title-decider between league leaders Bashundhara Kings and defending champions Abahani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Kings lead the table with 37 points, having dropped a single point in 13 matches while Abahani trail them by four points, having lost two of their matches so far.

Kings' only blemish was a goalless draw away to the bottom-placed Team BJMC, but that was eight matches ago and the newcomers have won all seven of their matches convincingly since that draw. Abahani, on the other hand, have had a five-match winning streak in the league.

However, unlike Kings, Abahani are fighting on two fronts, with AFC Cup very much dominating their agenda. Despite playing with an injury-hit squad, the Sky Blues beat Chennaiyin FC at home on Wednesday, and that victory should boost their morale ahead of the do-or-die fixture against the Kings today.

A win today would bring them back right into the title race while a defeat would see Kings take a seven-point lead at the top.

Kings' Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon feels the importance of the match. "This match is very important for us as a win will virtually take us towards the title. So we are determined to win this match and extend our lead," Bruzon said ahead of the crucial match.

**Mohammedan 1 - 0 Arambagh**  
Toklish 16'

# Six-star City win FA Cup

AGENCIES, London

Manchester City completed the first ever domestic treble in English football in emphatic fashion by dispatching Watford 6-0 at Wembley to claim the FA Cup on Saturday.

Raheem Sterling scored a hat-trick, while David Silva, Kevin de Bruyne and Gabriel Jesus also netted to cap a glorious campaign with the biggest margin of victory in a FA Cup final since 1903.

Watford's wait to win their first ever major piece of silverware goes on, but after going behind they had little answer to Pep Guardiola's relentless champions as the Catalan picked up the 27th trophy of his coaching career.

Javi Gracia's men played a big part in their own downfall for City's first goal on 26 minutes from which Guardiola's men never looked back.

The diminutive figures of David Silva and Sterling both won headers against taller defenders before the ball broke for the Spaniard to fire across Heurelho Gomes.

City control then turned into total dominance as a gloriously crafted second gave Watford a mountain to climb.

Bernardo Silva's curling cross picked out Jesus at the back post and the Brazilian's effort was heading in before Sterling snatched his 24th goal of the season by smashing the ball over the line.

"I grew up here and saw this stadium get built. It's a massive dream come true to win trophies here," Sterling said.

# Novak survives a scare

Nadal coasts into semis

AFP, Rome



World number one Novak Djokovic saved two match points against former US Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro to advance to the semifinals of the Italian Open in a three-set Roman thriller on Friday as defending champion Rafael Nadal swept through without dropping a set.

Djokovic saved match points in the second set tie-break before winning through 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, sealing victory with an ace on his first match point after a three-hour battle.

"I had luck in the decisive moments in the second set tiebreak," said the 31-year-old.

"Towards the end of the first set he just started hitting the ball really well from both corners.

"Also backhand side, backhand down the line. He was playing really well. Gave me a lot of trouble. But I never lost faith," the four-time Rome winner said.

"I'm just really pleased to overcome." Del Potro had pulled out of Indian Wells and Miami with a knee injury, but

matched Madrid Open winner Nadal shot for shot, wrapping up the first set 6-4 in just over an hour.

The world number nine received treatment on a bloodied big toe after Djokovic levelled one-set all.

But he kept up the pressure with Djokovic again needing to save three break points on his serve in the fourth game of the final set before breaking for 3-2 as the momentum swung his way.

The 15-time Grand Slam winner next plays Argentine Diego Schwartzman, who eliminated Japanese sixth seed Kei Nishikori 6-4, 6-2.

Eight-time Rome champion Nadal eased through 6-4, 6-0 against fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco to set up a rematch with Greek rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas for a place in the final.

For 32-year-old Nadal it is his fourth straight semifinal on clay this season, but he has not managed to go further before his bid for a 12th French Open title at Roland Garros.

"After a lot of years here, I know what happened last week, and I'm going to try to do it better tomorrow," said 17-time Grand Slam winner Nadal.



Novak Djokovic returns the ball against Juan Martin Del Potro during their ATP Masters quarterfinals at the Foro Italico in Rome on Friday. PHOTO: AFP



Bayern Munich players celebrate with the Bundesliga trophy after defeating Eintracht Frankfurt 5-1 to seal their 29th title in Munich yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS



# 'Experience will be crucial in high-pressure situation'

ICC

Alex Carey, the Australia wicketkeeper-batsman, believes the vast experience of the side will be crucial in "high pressure" situations at the ICC World Cup 2019.

Many of the Australian players and support staff have significant World Cup experience. Ricky Ponting, their assistant coach, won the tournament thrice (in 1999, 2003 and 2007), fielding coach Brad Haddin was part of the 2015 title-winning team, and the likes of Aaron Finch, the captain, David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Steve Smith, Pat Cummins and Glenn Maxwell have all played in the previous editions.

"We've got a lot of knowledge," Carey told reporters in London. "Brad Haddin played in the last World Cup, we've got Ricky Ponting coming in, we've got a number of players who played in that last World Cup.

"We've got lots of knowledge around the group of guys to access. When we get into it, that's when the high-pressure [experience] comes into it."

The 27-year-old also said Australia would be focussed on their own game plans rather than shape them according to the opposition. Australia have won eight straight away one-day internationals, and Carey attributed that form to this approach.

"We have got a certain game style which has been successful in the last eight games, against quality opposition," he said. "For us, it



ALEX CAREY

is playing to our strengths. Every team in the World Cup has got their strengths. We aren't too much about opposition's game style. That's where we get distracted from what we are really good at.

"So for us, it's building on our success in the last few months. David [Warner] and Steve [Smith] come back in. Quality players. Aaron Finch is in really good form. Our quicks [are in good form as well]. We got a lot of exciting players."

Australia will play warm-up

matches against England and Sri Lanka before their opening game against Afghanistan on 1 June, and Carey is confident they will begin the tournament on a positive note.

"We will start planning. We have warm-up games as well, which will be part of our build-up," said Carey.

"A lot of us have played against a number of their [Afghanistan's] players. The first game is where we want to hit our straps. They will be keen to start the tournament well, and so are we."

## SHORT CORNER

### Hakeem votes after getting Australian citizenship

A refugee footballer who was detained in Thailand and threatened with extradition to Bahrain said he "feels great" after voting in Australia's election yesterday.

Hakeem al-Araibi, who became an Australian at a ceremony in Melbourne in March, shot to international fame when he was arrested during his honeymoon last year for alleged offences in Bahrain linked to the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

Amid a worldwide outcry, Al-Araibi -- who was granted refugee status and residency in Australia in 2017 after fleeing Bahrain -- was eventually allowed to return to Melbourne, where he plays semi-professional football.

Al-Araibi posted photos on Twitter and Instagram showing him at a polling station as he made a "V for victory" sign with his left hand, while wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, a backwards baseball bat and sunglasses.

"Today I voted for the first time in my life, it feels great to be able to vote in Australia. I wish

the best for Australia," he wrote on Twitter. --AFP

### Cannavaro breaks club rules

Italian legend Fabio Cannavaro flouted the rules of his club Guangzhou Evergrande to keep the seven-time champions in the Chinese Super League title race.

Evergrande declared prior to the season that they would field only two foreign players at a time to promote homegrown talent.

But with his side trailing 1-0 at newly promoted Wuhan Zall at half-time on Friday night, Cannavaro brought on English-born former Everton defender Tyias Browning.

That left Evergrande with three foreign players on the pitch in the second half -- Browning and the Brazilian midfielders Paulinho and Anderson Talisca.

Evergrande went on to win 3-2 -- Talisca and Paulinho both scoring -- and the team lie third in the table with a third of the campaign gone.

"Cannavaro broke the inside rules of the club and the appearance of the three players provided a signal that the team needed to win the game at all

costs," said the Guangzhou Daily. --AFP

### Zlatan hit with ban after neck grab

Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been suspended for two games after grabbing New York City FC goalkeeper Sean Johnson by the neck during Los Angeles Galaxy's defeat last weekend, Major League Soccer said Friday.

The MLS Disciplinary Committee announced in a statement it was sanctioning Ibrahimovic for violent conduct after the incident in the 86th minute of the game on May 11.

Ibrahimovic and Johnson wrestled each other to the floor after coming together in the closing stages of Galaxy's defeat last week.

Both players received a yellow card for the incident for unsportsmanlike conduct.

It is the second retrospective sanction Ibrahimovic has received in recent weeks.

He was hit with an undisclosed fine on May 10 after being found guilty of diving during his team's loss against Columbus Crew. --AFP

# No sympathy for L'pool

AFP, London



Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne understands Liverpool players being disappointed at falling just short of winning the Premier League title but he does not have any sympathy for them.

The 27-year-old Belgian midfielder says simply his side were better than Liverpool.

De Bruyne says no one would have felt sorry for City when they lost to Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League quarterfinal.

"No," he said this week when asked did he have sympathy for Liverpool.

"It's a remarkable effort but it means that we were just better than them in the end.

"I don't feel sorry for them because I don't think they'd feel sorry for us.

"I don't think anybody felt sorry about the way we went out of the Champions League." He played a less influential role than in

City's 2017/18 title triumph, starting just 11 league matches with bit parts in eight others due to two serious knee injuries and then a hamstring problem.

De Bruyne, who had a superb 2018 being named City's player of the 2017/18 season and then sparkled for Belgium as they finished a best ever third in the World Cup, says Liverpool feeling sore is understandable.

"I know how they feel because you're going to feel disappointed," said De Bruyne, who is fit for selection for the Cup final.

"We'd feel the same if it happened to us. But we're still competitors. We want to win as much as they do but I can understand the feelings they have."

De Bruyne, whose high point in what he admits has "not been the most fun season" has come off the pitch with his second son being born, is a great believer in football being played through emotions.

## BD-WI SCOREBOARD

| WEST INDIES                                      |       | R/B | 4s/6s |   |   |
|--|-------|-----|-------|---|---|
| Hope c Mosaddek b Mehedi                         | 74/64 | 6/3 |       |   |   |
| Ambris not out                                   | 69/78 | 7/0 |       |   |   |
| Bravo not out                                    | 3/3   | 0/0 |       |   |   |
| Extras: (lb-2, nb-1, w-3)                        | 6     |     |       |   |   |
| Total: (For 1 wkt in 24 overs)                   | 152   |     |       |   |   |
| Bowler   |       | O   | M     | R | W |
| Mashrafe   | 6     | 0   | 28    | 0 |   |
| Saifuddin  | 5     | 0   | 29    | 0 |   |
| Mustafizur                                       | 5     | 0   | 50    | 0 |   |
| Mosaddek   | 2     | 0   | 9     | 0 |   |
| Mehedi   | 4     | 0   | 22    | 1 |   |
| Sabbir   | 2     | 0   | 12    | 0 |   |
| BANGLADESH                                       |       | R/B | 4s/6s |   |   |
| Tamim c Holder b Gabriel                         | 18/13 | 2/0 |       |   |   |
| Soumya c sub (Gottrell) b Reifer                 | 66/41 | 9/3 |       |   |   |
| Sabbir lbw b Gabriel                             | 0/2   | 0/0 |       |   |   |
| Mushfiqur lbw b Reifer                           | 36/22 | 2/2 |       |   |   |
| Mithun lbw b Allen                               | 17/14 | 1/1 |       |   |   |
| Mahmudullah not out                              | 19/21 | 1/0 |       |   |   |
| Mosaddek not out                                 | 52/24 | 2/5 |       |   |   |
| Extras: (w-5)                                    | 5     |     |       |   |   |
| Total: (For 5 wkts in 22.5 overs)                | 213   |     |       |   |   |
| Bowler   |       | O   | M     | R | W |
| Nurse  | 3     | 0   | 35    | 0 |   |
| Holder   | 4     | 0   | 31    | 0 |   |
| Roach  | 5     | 0   | 57    | 0 |   |
| Gabriel  | 3     | 0   | 30    | 2 |   |
| Reifer   | 3.5   | 0   | 23    | 1 |   |
| Allen  | 4     | 0   | 37    | 2 |   |
| Result: Bangladesh won by 5 wickets (D/L method) |       |     |       |   |   |
| Player-of-the-match: Mosaddek Hossain.           |       |     |       |   |   |