

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS 1**  
India v South Africa  
Second Test, Day Two  
Live from 10:00am  
**SONY ESPN**  
Euro Qualifiers

Iceland v France  
Live from 12:45am (Saturday)  
**TEN 1**  
Euro Qualifiers  
Portugal v Luxemburg  
Live from 12:45am (Saturday)

**TEN 2**  
Euro Qualifiers  
Czech Republic v England  
Live from 12:45am (Saturday)

## DAY'S EVENT

**National Cricket League**  
Four-Day Match, Day Two  
Time: 9:30am

Rajshahi v Dhaka  
Venue: KSOAS  
Rangpur v Khulna

Venue: SANS  
Barisal v Sylhet  
Venue: SKS

Dhaka Metro v Chattogram  
Venue: SBNSC

## CECH SWAPS BOOTS FOR PADS

Former Chelsea and Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech on Wednesday said he was swapping football for ice hockey after signing to play for a British league team as a goaltender. The 37-year-old Czech, who retired from playing in the summer, said he was reigniting his passion for a sport he first played as a youngster by penning a deal with the Guildford Phoenix. Cech won four Premier League titles, four FA Cups, three League Cups, the Champions League and the Europa League during his Chelsea career, with a further FA Cup success coming at Arsenal.



# Argentina battle back in 2-2 draw

AFP, Dortmund

Lionel Scaloni praised his battling Argentina side, missing Lionel Messi, as they scored second-half goals to earn a 2-2 draw in a friendly against an experimental Germany team on Wednesday.

The Germans flew into a 2-0 lead with first-half goals by Serge Gnabry and Kai Havertz in Dortmund before Lucas Alario turned the game when he came on for Argentina with an hour gone. The Leverkusen striker pulled a goal back, then set up Lucas Ocampos for a deserved late equaliser.

"We matured during the game," said Argentina coach Scaloni. "We made two or three mistakes in the first half, but got a grip in the second half, were more patient and we take a lot of positives for the future."

Germany head coach Joachim Loew admitted his side faded after a bright start.

"We wanted to be in the game right from the off, but unfortunately we couldn't hold on for 90 minutes," said Loew.

Loew handed out four debuts in Dortmund. Freiburg defender Robin Koch and striker Luca Waldschmidt started, then Leverkusen forward Nadiem Amiri and Schalke midfielder Suat Serdar came on for second-half debuts.

Despite 13 withdrawals due to either

illness or injury, Germany impressed early against an Argentina team missing Messi, Sergio Aguero and Angel di Maria.

With Messi suspended for comments made at the Copa America, Juventus' Paulo Dybala partnered Lautaro Martinez up front for Argentina. The friendly was a repeat of the 2014 World Cup final, yet Argentina's Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo was the only survivor when the Germans won in Rio de Janeiro.

Rojo partnered Manchester City veteran Nicolas Otamendi in an Argentina defence which crumbled early on. Gnabry put Germany ahead on 15 minutes.

The winger used his pace when Atletico Madrid's Angel Correa lost possession to get in behind the defence to stab the ball past Argentina goalkeeper Augustin Marchesin. When Rojo then lost the ball to Waldschmidt, Gnabry turned provider, using his pace to present Havertz with a simple tap-in on 22 minutes.

However, the South Americans had the best of the second-half, starting when Scaloni put Alario on for Dybala on 62 minutes.

Alario showed his strength in the air to head past Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen four minutes later. The visitors equalised when Alario set up Sevilla's Lucas Ocampos, a second-half replacement for Correa, to blast past ter Stegen five minutes from time.



Argentina forward Lucas Alario (C) celebrates scoring a goal during a FIFA international friendly against Germany at the Signal Iduna Park in Dortmund yesterday. The match ended in a 2-2 draw, courtesy of a late equaliser from Argentina's Lucas Ocampos.

PHOTO: AFP



A South East University player (L) vies for the ball with his North South University counterpart during a Faraz Inter-University Gold Cup match in Kamalapur yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Semifinal matches set

SPORTS REPORTER

The United Group Faraz Inter-University Gold Cup football tournament's semifinal lineup was completed as International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) and South East advanced into the last-four battle by beating their respective rivals at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

IUBAT blanked BRAC University 2-0 while South East University defeated North South University 4-3 in tiebreakers after regulation time ended 1-1.

IUBAT will play Gono University while South East University face Bangladesh University of Textile in the semifinals on October 12.

## BD aim for finals

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh will look to ensure their spot in the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship final when they take on Nepal at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan today.

The girls in red and green got off to a fine start in the regional age-group tournament by handing a 2-0 defeat to hosts Bhutan. Bangladesh, with a match in hand, will need an outright win over Nepal today to ensure a place in the final, where they would face holders India, who beat Nepal 4-0 in the opening match.

Bangladesh head coach Golam Rabbani Choton is however slightly concerned with his backline, who are playing at international matches for the first time since veteran defenders such as Akhi Khatun, Shamsunnahar,

Ani Mogini and Nila Yeasim grew out of the under-15 level.

However, Choton was pleased with how the new players have performed so far seeing as they hardly made any mistakes and the Bhutanese. Therefore, the coach will hope that they can keep their performance intact for when they face Nepal.

"The girls will try to put their normal show against Nepal, who are also a good side and they want to bounce back after losing the first match. They also have some good players and we want to keep them under vigilance," Choton told the Daily Star over phone yesterday.

"It is a very vital match for us because a win over them will take us to the final, which was our initial target, and I'm hopeful that the girls will play accordingly from the first minute to the last minute and keep their opponents under pressure," said Choton.



## Neymar youngest to 100 appearances

AFP, Singapore

Neymar became the youngest player to make 100 appearances for Brazil yesterday but the Paris Saint-Germain forward had to settle for a 1-1 draw as he failed to score in a friendly with Senegal in Singapore.

Roberto Firmino opened the scoring for the Copa America champions with a stunning lob after a Coutinho lay-off in the eighth minute. As the half progressed, the livelier Senegal became, driven on by their captain Cheikhou Kouyate.

Famara Diedhiou levelled from the penalty spot just before half-time after Sadio Mane was dragged down in the area.

# DREAMING OF BOWLING 'EM OVER

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI



Ten-pin bowling, a sport where the player rolls a ball down a wooden lane to try to topple the 10 pins at the other end, is not well-known in Bangladesh sporting circles and those who recognise it, most probably know it from Western culture.

Here, cricket and football are the bread and butter of the sports fanatics, with other sports such as hockey, table tennis and chess followed to a lesser degree. Even archery, which is gaining public attention recently, was neglected in the country's sports arena. But there are a few dreamers who take on the challenge of excelling in a sport that has little local significance. Musharraf Hossain Ahmed is one such individual who is the sole representative of Bangladesh in international ten-pin bowling.

One can easily surmise that there is no emphasis on ten-pin bowling from the mere fact that Bangladesh does not even have a federation for the sport. Under such circumstances, Musharraf has been plying his trade for 20 years and while it has been anything but smooth sailing, he has achieved a lot and will now represent Bangladesh in the 55th QubicaAMF Bowling World Cup in Indonesia next month.

It has been a steep battle for Musharraf, without any professional clubs that would allow him to play in national tournaments. When he started, there were facilities in Sports Zone, Fu-Wang Club and Rifles Square where he first developed an interest in the sport. He felt the sport was gaining traction

back in 2004 but the facilities closed down.

"Bowling was starting to gain some popularity back in 2004 and there were even tournaments. However, curfews and also the outlets making losses led to them closing down. I took a leave from bowling at that time and as a result I even developed an injury. I am getting better but the injury also led to me underperforming in tournaments," Musharraf said.

Without any professional outlet to practise his trade, it is 'a big thing to even have the courage to play in the World Cup', according to Musharraf.

He had given up on bowling for four-five years but started with renewed spirit in 2014 when Jamuna Future Park was inaugurated. A 22-lane facility at the outlet allowed him to get back into the flow of things. He started mailing institutions outside the country, hoping to get into tournaments, but without much success.

"Back when I started, I was playing quite well and had an average of 180. We had a group of about 10 people but no one had ever thought that we could go outside the country and play."

He went to Malaysia in 2018 and became a member of the Malaysia Penang Bowling federation and met the vice-president of World Bowling, the governing body of the sport. Musharraf has participated in six international tournaments till date.

"The vice-president was really surprised to learn that Bangladesh had bowlers. He saw me play and assured me that he would help me participate in international tournaments. But problems occurred when I wanted to play the World Cup. They [Penang association] wanted me to represent Malaysia but I didn't want to do that. Nationality was a factor for the World Cup and they couldn't support me. I started communicating with the

governing body to find a way," he said.

He finally got in touch with the right people, who informed him that he needed a Government Order (GO) in order to participate.

"For 20 years I have been playing on and off but the environment and facilities here are not supportive. I have even stopped going to Jamuna because the playing surface there is not professional. If you practise here, you cannot play the same way in international tournaments. I am thinking of going there early and practising there but the financial aspect makes it hard," he reiterated.

Amidst all these challenges facing him for such a long period of time, Musharraf says 'the sport has now entered my blood stream', and all he is looking forward to is a sponsor before heading to the World Cup next month on November 13.



MUSHARRAF HOSSAIN AHMED



After about 40 years of being outcasts, Iranian women were finally allowed to enter stadiums and cheer on their national team during Iran's 2022 World Cup qualifier against Cambodia at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Roger, Novak advance

AFP, Shanghai



Roger Federer said that his devoted band of Chinese supporters helped pull him through a tough first set and into the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals yesterday.

The Swiss defeated David Goffin 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 after the 13th seed from Belgium squandered five set points in the first set.

The 38-year-old Federer plays either Germany's Alexander Zverev or Andrey Rublev of Russia in the last eight.

Federer was left shaking his head in the first set and he suffered a rare inelegant moment in the 12th game, slipping on his own sweat -- "a bit embarrassing", he said. The Swiss fell awkwardly and was then broken by Goffin, 14th in the world.

But the Belgian lost his nerve despite going 3-1 up in the first-tie break,

and Federer roared back to turn the momentum in his favour.

Federer was regularly serenaded by chants of "Roger, Roger, go go go" by local supporters all sitting together in one part of the arena. All were decked out in red.

Federer, who failed to win a Grand Slam this year, said their backing had been key to his revival.

World number one Novak Djokovic made light work of American John Isner and plays promising 21-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in the last eight.

The defending champion from Serbia dismissed the 16th seed Isner 7-5, 6-3 in 74 minutes after taming Isner's booming serve.

The 32-year-old Djokovic is looking imperious, having not dropped a set in claiming the title in Tokyo last week and continuing that perfect record in Shanghai.