

What to WATCH

TEN 1

UEFA Champions League

Napoli v Genk

Live from 11:55pm

Dortmund v Slavia Praha

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

Red Bull v Liverpool

Live from 11:55pm

Inter Milan v Barcelona

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

FAN STABBED OVER SHORTS

An AC Milan supporter was stabbed outside Bologna stadium Sunday in a fight over who had caught a players' shorts, according to media reports in Italy. The dispute broke out between the two visiting fans after Milan players threw shirts and shorts into the stands after the final whistle following their 3-2 away win. It continued outside the Stadio Dall'Ara with one fan being stabbed in the abdomen and taken to hospital in a serious condition. The argument was over who had caught one of the players' shorts, Gazzetto Dello Sport said, quoting local reports. Former European giants AC Milan got back-to-back Serie A wins for just the second time this season to move up to 10th place in the Italian league.

-- AFP



(From L) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President-Elect Witold Banka, WADA President Craig Reedie and WADA Director General Olivier Niggli attend a press conference in Lausanne following an executive committee meeting which decided to ban Russia from global sporting events for four years.

PHOTO: AFP

## WC qualifiers still on

AFP, Lausanne



An official linked to the World Anti-Doping Agency said yesterday that Russia can participate in qualifying for the 2022 World Cup despite receiving a four-year ban from major global sporting events.

WADA's executive committee placed the suspension on Russia earlier in the day after accusing Moscow of falsifying laboratory doping data handed over to investigators this year.

"Because the qualifiers don't decide the world champion, Russia can take part. The decision applies to the World Cup

### WHAT THEY'LL MISS

2020 Summer Olympics in Japan  
2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing  
2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar

tournament because it decides the world champion," said Jonathan Taylor, chairman of WADA's Compliance Review Committee.

World football's governing body said earlier on Monday it was seeking clarification about the extent of the suspension. Russia hosted the 2018 World Cup.

Russia will be ruled out of the next Olympic cycle, and its government's officials will be barred from attending any major events, while the country will lose the right to host, or even bid, for tournaments.

Under the sanctions, Russian athletes will still be allowed to compete at the Olympics next year and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics but only if they can demonstrate that they were not part of what WADA believes was a state-sponsored system of doping.

Russia's participation at Euro 2020, in which Saint Petersburg will host four matches, is not affected by the ban because it is not defined as a "major event" for anti-doping purposes.



### WHAT THEY SAID

Totally not surprised about this outcome. Today is a very shameful day and I never believed the promises that everything will be OK. I will continue fighting for my own right to compete, even under a neutral flag.

-- Maria Lasitskne, three-time high-jump World Champion

We got what we deserved. We have so many former athletes in the State Duma, couldn't they sort out this mess? I am with WADA on this one.

-- Alexander Tikhonov, four-time Olympic biathlon champion

WADA is trying to drive a wedge between Russian athletes and the state. This is not about sports, it is purely politics.

-- Vasily Titov, head of the Russian Olympic summer sports federations

I have no words... How can you mock athletes who have been preparing all their lives for this?

-- Aslanbek Khushotov, wrestling gold medalist.

## 'No chance to win in court'

AFP, Moscow



The head of Russia's anti-doping agency said yesterday that his country had "no chance" of winning an appeal against a four-year international sporting ban he said was a tragedy for clean athletes.

"There is no chance of winning this case in court," RUSADA chief Yuri Gansus told AFP after the World Anti-Doping Agency imposed the ban that will rule Russia out of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

RUSADA's supervisory board is set to meet on December 19 to take a decision on whether to appeal the ban, he said.

"This is a tragedy," he said. "Clean athletes are seeing their rights limited."

Gansus said that some Russian athletes were contemplating leaving Russia so that they could train elsewhere.

He described the sentiments among athletes as "awful," stressing that four years for a sportsman is a long time in what can be a short career.

Earlier Monday WADA's executive committee, meeting in Lausanne, decided that Russia be handed a four-

### RECENT RESULTS

Russia finished as quarterfinalists in the 2018 FIFA World Cup at home.

Russia at the 2016 Summer Olympics:

Athletes:	291
Gold medals:	19
Silver medals:	17
Bronze:	20

year suspension after accusing Moscow of falsifying laboratory data.

Russian athletes have already faced a series of bans over the last few years and were forced to participate in the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games as neutral competitors.

The heads of several Russian sports federations said they were preparing to send athletes to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics under a neutral flag.

The head of Russia's swimming federation, Vladimir Salnikov, said the country's athletes "must go to the Olympics whatever the situation."

"Of course we'd prefer that our athletes participate under the Russian flag and hear their national anthem. But the circumstances may be different... (and) no-one has the right to deprive innocent athletes of their dreams," he told state news agency RIA Novosti.

## Barca face AC Milan sans Messi

AFP, Milan

Barcelona star Lionel Messi will not make the trip to Italy for today's Champions League game against Inter Milan, the Spanish club confirmed yesterday.

Antonio Conte's Inter still have to book their place in the last 16. They are second, level on seven points with Borussia Dortmund who host Slavia Prague.

Inter will qualify if the two clubs finish on the same number of points due to their superior head-to-head goal difference.

## Shuttlers begin challenge today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Yonex-Sunrise Bangladesh International Challenge will get underway at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium today, with all Bangladeshi shuttlers except Salman Khan taking part in the qualifying round of the six-day tournament.

Some 168 shuttlers, including 56 female players from 19 countries, will be vying in five events -- men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles -- in the 25,000 US dollar prize-money tournament. Bangladesh Badminton Federation president Abdul Malek disclosed the details at a press conference in the headquarters of the local game's governing body.

A total of 12 male and eight female shuttlers will represent Bangladesh.

After the completion of the senior competition, another competition featuring junior shuttlers will be held from December 17 to 22 with 26 local players, including 10 female shuttlers, taking part.

## Seven teams, one venue

SPORTS REPORTER



The over-reliance on the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur as a practice venues is a common trend in Bangladesh, with all seven teams of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BBPL) often seen practising side by side at the crowded National Academy ground.

The foreign players and coaches of the seven teams are already in Dhaka as preparations for the BBPL are in full swing with the tournament kicking off tomorrow.

Rangpur Rangers head coach Mark O'Donnell, in Bangladesh for the first time, had first-hand experience of the overcrowding while conducting training yesterday.

"Six teams and some spectators as well, I am afraid that a ball will hit someone. I have never seen anything like this where so many teams are

practising together in such a small place at the same time," O'Donnell told reporters.

Despite the short lead-up to the tournament, the Kiwi was optimistic about his side, which contains the likes of Mustafizur Rahman as their local star alongside foreign recruits like Mohammad Nabi and Cameron Delport.

"This is my first time in Bangladesh and it's a tight schedule where six teams are practising at the same ground. We do have some varieties in our team with some left-arm spinners and we also have Mustafizur. I am hopeful we will be able to have the balance. Actually, it's everywhere that you don't get enough time for preparation, such as the Caribbean Premier League, so the coaching staff also need to adjust with this situation," he added.

Rajshahi Royals English coach Owais Shah was confident in his two T20 all-rounders Andre Russell and Ravi Bopara, alongside local

cricketers Liton Das and Afif Hossain.

"It will be important to step up at the right time and I hope it will be interesting. Normally, batsmen get assistance from the pitch in T20s but I hope there will also be something for the seamers. The most important thing is that the fans are entertained," Shah said.

Meanwhile, Khulna Tigers' Pakistani left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir is aiming to finish as the highest wicket-taker.

With the likes of Mushfiquur Rahim, Shafiuul Islam, young leg-spinner Aminul Islam and Nazmul Hossain Shanto, Amir -- who is the foreign recruit alongside Rilee Rossouw and Robbie Frylinck -- thought that Khulna are a strong outfit.

"I have just arrived but if you noticed we have a good team, especially the local cricketers. Personally, I want to become the highest wicket-taker in the tournament," Amir said.



The Khulna Tigers squad practised at the Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday while the Dhaka Platoon players visited the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial in Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED/COLLECTED



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- ICT Security Engineer

02 (Two) Posts  
02 (Two) Posts  
04 (Four) Posts

OFFICER

- ICT Security Engineer

06 (Six) Posts

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- Hardware Engineer for Call Centre Support

03 (Three) Posts  
05 (Five) Posts  
25 (Twenty Five) Posts

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