

## What to WATCH

**GTV**  
UAE vs Bangladesh  
1st T20I  
Live from 08:00 pm  
**TEN 1**  
UEFA Nations League  
Netherlands vs

Belgium  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Monday)  
**TEN 2**  
UEFA Nations League  
Denmark vs France  
Live from 12:45 am

(Monday)  
**SONY SIX**  
Pakistan vs England  
4th T20I  
Live from 08:30 pm  
UEFA Nations  
League

Wales vs Poland  
Live from 12:45 am  
(Monday)  
**STAR SPORTS 1**  
India vs Australia  
3rd T20I  
Live from 07:30 pm

## Tigers to face UAE in friendly series

SPORTS REPORTER

The first of the two-match Friendship T20 Series against hosts UAE may not have a great impact on Bangladesh's preparations for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in Australia, but the two games can help the team management work on the team's approach ahead of the mega event.

The first game is scheduled to start at 8:00pm Bangladesh time and will be telecast live by Gazi TV.

In the absence of skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who is currently engaged in the Caribbean Premier League, Nurul Hasan Sohan will lead the rather demoralised Tigers desperate to stage a turnaround after a dismal performance in last year's ICC T20 World Cup.

However, considering the strength of the UAE, it will be important for Bangladesh to not allow a false sense of confidence to develop if they outplay the hosts.

The main purpose of the training camp in the UAE was to work on specific areas under Bangladesh's Technical Consultant Sridhar Sriram.

The Tigers think-tank will look to form a settled combination for the two games ahead of the upcoming tri-nation series in New Zealand and the World Cup next month.

Bangladesh's opening position dominated discussion after the team management opted for a makeshift opening pair in the form of Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Sabbir Rahman during the Asia Cup in the UAE earlier this month.

Sriram and the coaching staff may also tinker with the batting order to form a settled unit.

There are also bigger challenges awaiting in Australia, especially for the pace-bowling department, keeping the seam-friendly Australian conditions in mind.



PHOTO: AFP

## A very special 'FEDAL' MOMENT

AGENCIES

A tearful Roger Federer ended his historic career with defeat alongside long-time rival Rafael Nadal in a doubles match at the Laver Cup in the early hours of Saturday.

Tears flowed, naturally, for Federer, but the vision of Nadal, the Swiss Maestro's long-time rival-turned friend, crying alongside him tugged at the heartstrings of tennis fans and their fellow players.

With a sellout crowd of 17,500 at London's O2 Arena willing him on, the 20-time Grand Slam champion returned after more than a year away to play alongside Rafa Nadal, the Spaniard with whom he shared one of tennis's most captivating rivalries.

The result felt a mere formality as pictures and videos of Federer and Nadal - who shared one of tennis's most enthralling rivalries - crying together after combining for Team Europe in a doubles defeat at London's O2 Arena went viral on social media, leaving their legions of fans highly emotional.

The heart-warming scene has been shared by many fans along with their messages as they were touched by the shared 'Fedal' moment.

In arguably the most moving visual in the history of tennis, both Federer and Nadal were sat next to one another

“Who thought rivals can feel like this towards each other. That's the beauty of sport. This is the most beautiful sporting picture ever for me. When your companions cry for you, you know why you've been able to do with your god given talent. Nothing but respect for these 2.”



Sharing the photo on Twitter, former India captain Virat Kohli posted an emotional tribute to both the tennis legends.

courtside as they continued to cry. The respect and admiration the pair have for each other is clear to see and Federer choosing to end his illustrious career alongside his pal and greatest rival was very fitting.

Nadal, who has won a men's record 22 Grand Slam singles titles, said it was a difficult night for him emotionally.

“For me, has been huge honour to be a part of this amazing moment of the history of our sport, and at the same time a lot of years sharing a

lot of things together,” the Spaniard said of Federer.

“When Roger leaves the tour, yeah, an important part of my life is leaving too because all the moments he has been next or in front me in important moments of my life. So has been emotional (to) see the family, see all the people. Yeah, difficult to describe. But, yeah, amazing moment.”

Federer, who won 20 major singles titles, played Nadal 40 times in one of the most compelling rivalries across any sport.

Loud cheers accompanied Federer and Nadal, or “Fedal” as they are jointly nicknamed, on to court. After entertaining the sellout crowd during the match, both were overcome by emotions.

“I think every year the personal relationship gets better and better, on a daily basis,” Nadal, 36, told reporters. “I think in some way we understand at the end we have a lot of things similar. We approach the life probably similar.”

“On court we have completely opposite styles, and that's what probably makes our matches and our rivalry probably one of the biggest and most interesting.”

“Very proud to be part of his career in some way. But even happier to finish our career like friends after everything we shared on court like rivals.”

## Rakibul, Shirin take 200m crowns



SPORTS REPORTER

Rakibul Hasan and Shirin Akter of Bangladesh Navy bagged gold medals in the 200m sprint events on the concluding day of the Sultana Kamal Olila Group 16th National Summer Athletics Championship at the Bangladesh Army Stadium yesterday.

Rakibul clocked 21.49 seconds to win the 200m men's sprint title while 12-time fastest female sprinter of the country, Shirin, took 25.7 seconds to win the women's title. Shirin had, on the previous day, regained the 100m sprint title.

Jannat Begum of Bangladesh Army set a new national record in women's javelin throw, clearing 46.06 metres and eclipsing the previous record of 45.14 metres by a distance. Bangladesh Navy also topped the medals table with 20 gold, 13 silver and nine bronze medals. Bangladesh Army followed them close behind with 19 gold, 19 silver and 13 bronze medals. Bangladesh Ansar & VDP finished a distant third with one gold, two silver and eight bronze medals.

Bangladesh Army's Imranur Rahman, the fastest man of the country, was adjudged the best male athlete by Bangladesh Athletes' Association, who adjudged Umme Hafsa Rumki of Bangladesh Navy as the best female athlete of the meet.



PHOTO: TWITTER

Lionel Messi scored twice and Argentina dominated Honduras 3-0 on Friday in Miami as the World Cup-bound team continues to fine-tune their tactics ahead of the mega event in Qatar. Argentina haven't lost in 34 matches heading into Tuesday's game against Jamaica in New York. “I feel good, different from last year and I knew it was going to be like that. The truth is I feel very good and I'm enjoying myself again,” said Messi after the match. Richardson struck twice as Brazil showcased their World Cup credentials by putting on an attacking masterclass in a 3-0 victory over Ghana in Friday's friendly in Le Havre.

## Sanjida and others get what they had lost

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) reimbursed money to the SAFF Women's Champion team members, some of whom had lost dollars and valuables following their arrival from Kathmandu on Thursday.

“The little girls lost their money. The ones who sit here have a responsibility towards these girls. Out of this responsibility, we gave them the money so that they stay happy,” BFF president Kazi Salahuddin told the media following a meeting of the professional league committee on Saturday.

After receiving a grand reception on their arrival in Dhaka, in which the team was put on an open-top double-decker and paraded from the airport to the BFF headquarters in Motijheel, Krishna Rani Sarkar, Shamsunnahar Sr and Sanjida Akhter discovered that their valuables had been stolen.

Their bags were found unlocked and the money missing. Krishna lost \$900 and Shamsunnahar \$400. Some of the money also belonged to Sanjida Akhter, who had saved up for buying an iPhone, it had been reported.

According to a BFF official, Krishna and Shamsunnahar Sr have been given much more than what they had lost while Sanjida got the phone she had saved up for.

## Matin taking inspiration from Sabina & Co

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's football team is taking inspiration from their women compatriots as they gear up for a FIFA Friendly against Nepal in Kathmandu on Tuesday.

The men's team reached Nepal on Friday night to play a FIFA friendly against the host nation, a week after the women's team beat the hosts to claim their maiden SAFF Women's Championship title.

The men's team is also on a bit of a high, having nicked a 1-0 win against Cambodia in Phnom Penh on Thursday. This will be the second and final match in this international window for the men and red and green in their bid to move up the FIFA ranking.

Matin Mia, who set up Rakib Hossain for the decisive goal in the first-half of that match against Cambodia and later had a shot off the bar in the second half, said everybody is happy with the women's title, but now it's their turn to earn a victory.

“The girls winning the title is a big achievement for our country,” Matin told the media following the first practice session in Kathmandu on Saturday.

“Everyone is cheerful. Everyone is happy and training hard to get a good result in the next match too. We had always said that we would play these two matches to win. Since we won the first match, our confidence level is high,” Matin said.

The Bashundhara Kings winger said they are eager to end the international window on a high with two wins out of two matches, regardless of recent past results against Nepal.

“Even though the last time we lost here against Nepal, this time we have been training for some time and we want to win this match,” Matin added.

## 'Angry' Germany eye redemption against England

AGENCIES

Germany manager Hansi Flick said “it is better to be angry now than at the World Cup” as he promised his side will learn from their 1-0 home defeat to Hungary.

“I am absolutely disappointed because as a footballer you hate to lose,” Flick said after Friday's defeat in Leipzig, his first since taking over the German job.

“The time for experimentation is over.” Flick's “experimentation” referred to putting attacking midfielder Jonas Hofmann at right back, which he abandoned at half-time with the home side trailing to Adam Szalai's 17th-minute goal.

Next up for Germany, as they build up to November-December's World Cup in Qatar, is a trip next week to old rivals England.

Joshua Kimmich, clearly the home side's best player on a disappointing night, said beating England was the first step to a successful World Cup. “Listen... we wanted to win the group at all costs, even if you didn't see that in the first half,” Kimmich said, with his side third in their Nations League group, behind Hungary and Italy.

“And now we can't do that anymore, but we still want to win the last game against England to give us more confidence.”

Meanwhile, Italy coach Roberto Mancini praised his inexperienced team for the character they showed in a 1-0 win over England in the Nations League on Friday.