

SONY SIX
England v Australia
Third T20I (N)
Live from 11:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & 2
US Open
Round of 16 & Quarterfinal
Live from 9:00pm

SRAR SPORTS 2
Caribbean Premier League
Trinbago v Jamaica (Semifinal-1)
Live from 8:00pm
Guyana v St Lucia (Semifinal-2)
Live from 3:30am (Wednesday)
TEN 1
UEFA Nations League

France v Croatia
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)
TEN 2
UEFA Nations League
Georgia v North Macedonia
Live from 10:00pm
Denmark v England
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

Djokovic 'sad and empty'

WHAT THEY SAID

"There are two factors, one is the action and the result. And the action - while there was no intent - the result of hitting a line umpire and (her) clearly being hurt is the essential factor in the decision-making process here."

---Soeren Friemel, Tournament referee.

"When I turn back again, the line umpire was on the floor. I'm very apprehensive with these kind of things, so I was a little bit in shock."

---Pablo Carreno Busta, Djokovic's opponent in the match.

"I'm as shocked as anybody. Novak and me go way back. We call each other family. This is probably the most difficult moment in his entire professional life. He did break the rule, the decision is correct."

---Boris Becker, former US Open Champion and former coach of Djokovic.

"If he embraces that role, I think he could recover. He's got a lot of things going for him, but this is a stain that he's not going to be able to erase."

---John McEnroe, seven Grand Slam singles Titles winner.

"It's the right decision. He is not aiming for the line judge, but has hit the ball away and you have to be responsible for your actions."

---Tim Henman, disqualified from Wimbledon for a similar incident in 1995.

"Unbelievable what just happened on the court. Novak Djokovic defaulted for inadvertently but stupidly hitting a lineswoman in the throat with a ball and the officials had no choice but to default."

---Martina Navratilova, 18-time Grand Slam singles champion.

"Swap me for jokers incident. 'Accidentally hitting the ball kid in the throat' how many years would I be banned for? 5? 10? 20?"

---Nick Kyrgios, Australian tennis player.



REUTERS, NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic said he was "sad and empty" after being disqualified from the U.S. Open on Sunday after hitting a line judge in the throat with a ball during his fourth-round match against Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta.

"I checked on the lines person and the tournament told me that thank God she is feeling ok. I'm extremely sorry to have caused her such stress. So unintended. So wrong. I'm not disclosing her name to respect her

LIST OF PLAYERS DISQUALIFIED FOR ON-COURT MISCONDUCT

- 2020 - Novak Djokovic (Serbia), U.S. Open
- 2019 - Nick Kyrgios (Australia), Italian Open
- 2017 - Denis Shapovalov (Canada), Davis Cup
- 2012 - David Nalbandian (Argentina), Queens's Club Championships
- 2009 - Serena Williams (U.S.), U.S. Open
- 2007 - Stefan Koubek (Austria), Open de Moselle
- 2007 - Anastasia Rodionova (Australia), Cincinnati Open
- 1996 - Irina Spirlea (Romania), Palermo Ladies Open
- 1995 - Carsten Arriens (Germany), French Open
- 1995 - Jeff Tarango (U.S.), Wimbledon
- 1995 - Tim Henman and Jeremy Bates (Britain), Wimbledon
- 1990 - John McEnroe (U.S.), Australian Open.

THE GRAND SLAM RULES STATE:

Players shall not at any time physically abuse any official, opponent, spectator or other person within the precincts of the tournament site.

A UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT SAID:

"In accordance with the Grand Slam rulebook, following his actions of intentionally hitting a ball dangerously or recklessly within the court or hitting a ball with negligent disregard of the consequences, the tournament referee defaulted Novak Djokovic from the 2020 US Open. Because he was defaulted, Djokovic will lose all ranking points earned at the US Open and will be fined the prize money won at the tournament in addition to any or all fines levied with respect to the offending incident."

privacy," the world number one said on Instagram.

Having dropped serve to trail 5-6, the Serb swatted a ball reasonably hard to the back of the court, inadvertently striking the line judge, who screamed out in pain as she fell to the ground.

Tournament referee Soeren Friemel came out on to the Arthur Ashe Stadium and spoke to chair umpire Aurelie Tourte and Andreas Egli, the Grand Slam supervisor, before a long chat with the 33-year-old Serb.

After 12 minutes of pleading, Djokovic's fate was sealed. "As for the disqualification, I need to go back within and work on my disappointment and turn this all into a lesson for my growth and evolution as a player and human being," Djokovic, who was chasing an 18th Grand Slam title added.

"I apologize to the @usopen

tournament and everyone associated for my behavior. I'm very grateful to my team and family for being my rock support, and my fans for always being there with me. Thank you and I'm so sorry."

Djokovic has proved unbeatable on court this year but Sunday's dramatic disqualification from the U.S. Open was not the first time questionable judgement has led to unintended consequences for the world number one.

The 33-year-old has long shown a fierce desire to be considered a statesman of the game in the same way as Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal, his fellow members of the "Big Three".

The Adria Tour was an altruistic endeavour aimed at raising funds for charity, and the players' association he launched ahead of the U.S. Open is aimed at providing a platform for his fellow professionals.

Focus should be on actual strengths

The Bangladesh national team is gearing up to return to international cricket with their three-Test tour of Sri Lanka in October, which will end around six months of coronavirus-induced down time. The Daily Star has been looking at different departments of their play, and will wrap up the series today with an attempt to analyse the entire squad and selection.

MAZHAR UDDIN



In the 20 years since Bangladesh attained Test status, there have been some shortcomings in Tests on the part of team management when it came to settling on the actual strength of the Tigers, their opponents' and the conditions, especially in the lead-up to foreign tours. This is where the selectors will have to be sharp and clear ahead of the Sri Lanka tour, because Sri Lanka is one of only three countries where Bangladesh have away Test wins, alongside Zimbabwe and West Indies. The selectors are planning to take at least 22 cricketers on tour and whittle that down to a 15- or 17-member squad after playing a few practice matches with the High Performance Squad.

"We will submit the preliminary squad to the board president tomorrow [Tuesday] and it will be announced maybe in a day or two. The 15-member squad will be declared following the camp in Sri Lanka. We are still in discussions with the head coach about the number of players he wants to take in the preliminary squad," chief selector Minhajul Abedin told The Daily Star.

Keeping the long tour in mind the selectors are planning to have at least six pacers, three wicketkeepers, three spinners, and 10 batsmen in their preliminary 22-member squad. It will be important for head coach Russell Domingo to also assess the pattern and history of Sri Lanka in their recent home Tests as well as Bangladesh's only Test win against the opponents in 2017 in Colombo, incidentally also the Tigers' 100th Test. Sri Lankan conditions and pitches generally offer a lot of runs with spinners playing a crucial role with the turning tracks.

The chairman of selectors cum manager of the Sri Lankan national team Ashantha De Mel said that it is time to switch to pace and even said that they are willing to have five pacers in the side when Bangladesh tour.

According to the report by The Island, SLC was looking at ways to play two Tests

at Pallekele as conditions generally suit seamers there more than any other venue in the country. The remaining Test match is likely to be played in Colombo.

Interestingly, the last Test played in Pallekele in 2018 -- when England beat the hosts by 57 runs -- the Sri Lankan pacers managed to pick just one wicket. A trio of spinners shared the 19 remaining wickets.

It was pretty similar for England as the spinners picked up a majority of the wickets while swing king James Anderson remained wicket-less.

In the previous Pallekele Test, Indian spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav were instrumental in their 171-run win. Then too, the Sri Lankan

spinners played the attacking role compared to their pacers on a pitch, which according to the report mentioned, generally suit seamers.

The Sri Lankan chairman of selection talked about a batch of pacers at their disposal. Among the batch are Minod Bhanuka, yet to pick a first-class wicket, Santush Gunathilaka, a 6-feet 2-inch tall pacer who has picked up six first-class wickets, and

Asitha Fernando who was wicketless in his only ODI. All three seamers are still waiting for their Test debut.

Apart from Suranga Lakmal the Sri Lankan pace attack does not seem to have enough experience and firepower to threaten Bangladesh, especially on pitches that have helped the spinners over the years and it is hard to accept their stated intention of banking on pacers.

"They will have their plans but at the end of the day it is our duty to cover all sides. Such reports do not affect our decisions. We will be prepared to face both pace and spin. It is not a home series for us so we need to make sure we are ready to face any challenge," Minhajul said.

Having the experience of besting Sri Lanka in a Test on their most recent tour -- and seeing the pain and resentment it caused in the island nation's media then -- it will be imperative for the team management to see through any mind games and plan for the tour on their own terms, and not be swayed by talk of pace demons.



Roy, Manik up against Salahuddin

SPORTS REPORTER

Badal Roy and Shafiqul Islam Manik, two prominent former national footballers have offered challenge to the incumbent Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin in the upcoming elections as the three bought nomination papers to contest for the hot seat yesterday.

Salahuddin, who has been at the helm of the game's local governing body for the last 12 years, was thought to be the lone candidate for the president's post ever since Chattogram Abahani vice-president and Saif SC chairman Tarafdar Ruhul Amin withdrew himself from election procedures in face of 'alleged pressure from some quarters' despite being actively involved with football for the last two-and-a-half years. However, the emergence of former Ducus sports secretary Manik and Badal has brought some excitement back to the elections, which are scheduled to take place on October 3.

Roy had earlier announced that he would not leave Salahuddin uncontested

and eventually stepped up for the challenge even though there were whispers he might skip the elections due to illness.

Apart from that the top post, though, this these elections are likely to be most one-sided since the 2008 polls when Salahuddin came to power for the first time. The Salahuddin panel is contesting in all 21 posts while there are only a few other candidates from outside this panel.

Former footballer Sheikh Mohammad Aslam has come up to challenge three-time senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy. Eight candidates -- incumbents Kazi Nabil Ahmed, Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi and Tabith M Awal along with Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan, Amirul Islam Babu, Imrul Hasan, Atatur Rahman Bhuiyan Manik and SM Abdullah Al Fuad -- bought nomination papers for four vice-president posts while 36 nomination papers were sold for 15 member posts.

Today is the deadline of submitting nomination papers, but everything will be clear on September 13 when the final candidates' list will be announced.



At 17 years and 311 days, Ansu Fati became the youngest Spanish player to score an international goal during his side's 4-0 win over Ukraine in the UEFA Nations League on Sunday. The Barcelona forward also boasts the records of being the youngest goal scorer in La Liga and Champions League.

PHOTO: TWITTER

From stealing brother's clothes to loaning him jerseys

While male cricketers have returned to training with a set target in mind, the same cannot be said about the women cricketers as the BCB are yet to schedule a series for the Tigresses in pandemic era. Since the halt in cricketing activities, The Daily Star has been talking to women cricketers to learn stories of their early days. In today's instalment, we talk to Fahima Khatun, the only Bangladeshi cricketer to bag a hat-trick in a T20I.

MOSTAFA SHABUI



Courageous and resilient are perhaps two words associated with people from Magura. The statement holds true when we talk about Bangladesh's brightest star, Shakib Al Hasan, who hails from this small district in Khulna. Bangladesh women's team cricketer Fahima Khatun may not yet have touched the heights that Shakib occupies, she is just as fearless and courageous as the nation's premier all-rounder.

Fahima and Shakib did cross paths once, and the 27-year-old leg spinner speaks about that moment proudly.

"I want to see you play. Whenever you get on the field, never think that you are a girl. Always think that you are a player," Shakib had told Fahima when she was once practising at the Magura Central Stadium.

Shakib may not have known it, but those were the words that Fahima, a girl who had to fight against many odds to make her career, needed most to hear. As she admitted, she never feared taking on any opponents -- regardless of size or gender -- since that day. Talking about fighting the odds, Fahima remembered the time she had to wage a kind of war against someone within her family -- her elder brother Rasel Ahmed, who was always



against her playing cricket.

"I was never attracted by the games that girls usually play during their childhood. I also did not usually wear girls' clothes. Most of the time I used to steal my brother's clothes and wear them. I also used to steal my brother's bike and go for rides. For these reasons, my brother used to scold me and fight with me as he was always against me doing anything that was traditionally seen to be boyish," said Fahima.

Even after donning her brother's clothes, it was not easy for Fahima to

be a part of the boys playing cricket at the ground. "When I was in eighth or ninth grade, I used to stand on the ground for hours. The boys only used to allow me as a fielder and I used to do that for three-four hours in the scorching heat," sighed Fahima.

Things have changed dramatically over the years. Fahima has now played 14 ODIs and 59 T20Is for Bangladesh since her debut in 2013. And ironically, Fahima and her brother have now switched roles.

"My brother does not say anything to me now. He is very happy since I have made it to the national team. The brother who used to bar me from wearing his clothes now proudly wears my jerseys and trousers. He even rides my bicycle in our hometown."

"I do not hold any grudge against my brother. If it wasn't for his obstruction, I would not have insisted on carrying on playing cricket and might never have made it this far. I still sometimes jokingly call him 'the villain'," said Fahima. While her elder brother was "the villain" of Fahima's life, her sister played the role of a hero.

"It was my sister Asma Akhi who used to take me to play in different tournaments without my brother's knowledge. We even used to sneak back into our house so that my brother wouldn't know. Basically, it was my sister who helped me get this far in my life," concluded Fahima.

Buttler out of third T20I after leaving 'bubble'

REUTERS, Undated

Batsman Jos Buttler will not play in the third Twenty20 international against Australia after leaving the team's bio-secure bubble to be with his family, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Monday.

Opener Buttler anchored England's chase of 158 on Sunday, remaining unbeaten on 77 off 54 balls, as the hosts prevailed with seven balls to spare to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series ahead of Tuesday's final match in Southampton.

The ECB did not say why Buttler had left the bubble but expected him to return before the three-match ODI series against the same opponents begins on Friday.

"England batsman Jos Buttler left the bio-secure bubble yesterday evening following the team's victory over Australia to be with his family," the ECB said in a statement. "Buttler, subject to testing, will return to the bio-secure bubble on Thursday ahead of the first ODI of the Royal London Series at Emirates Old Trafford on Friday."

England can replace Australia at the top of the T20 rankings if they sweep the series 3-0.