

# What to WATCH

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
Bangladesh v Australia  
1st Test, Day-3  
Live from 10:00am

**STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2**  
England v West Indies  
2nd Test, Day-5  
Live from 4:00pm  
US Open  
Round of 128  
Live from 11:00pm

**DAY'S EVENT**  
Bangladesh v England  
1st Test, Day-3  
Time: 10:00am  
Venue: SBNCs, Mirpur

## Tigers edging session battles

MAZHAR UDDIN

Despite an optimistic prediction of the result going 2-0 in Bangladesh's favour, Tamim Iqbal, before the start of the series, stressed on the importance of winning the small duels and sessions which are crucial to making the goal a reality.

After playing six sessions through the first two days of the gripping Test where 21 wickets have fallen, the home side have edged ahead in terms of session stakes.

The Tigers managed to dominate three out of those six sessions while the Aussies were ahead on two and the other looked even for both sides.

The visitors started with a bang in the very first session of the first day, picking up three early wickets to leave Bangladesh reeling at 10 inside four overs. Pat Cummins was devastating on a pitch, which was expected to support spinners, as the pacer displayed some fire and brimstone to defeat Soumya Sarkar, Imrul Kayes and Sabbir Rahman in no time. However, experienced campaigners Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim started to

repair the early damage as Bangladesh went to lunch on 96 for three. But the first session belonged to the Aussies.

Bangladesh came back with the Shakib-Tamim partnership adding 155 runs. It was a much-needed partnership for the home side to not only make amends but to also counterattack on a pitch where a total of 300 seemed enough. The first hour of the second session remained smooth as the home side added sixty runs without losing a wicket. However, both the batsman then departed before tea but the second session well and truly belonged to the Tigers.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the first day was the third session as both teams fought like boxers with punches being thrown from both ends. Bangladesh lost five wickets in close succession after starting the evening session on 190 for five, eventually being dismissed for 260 by some tight and incisive bowling from Australia. The visitors, however, were unable to have the last laugh of the day and went on to lose three wickets in the final hour and ended the first day on 18 for three, 242 behind. So it can be said that the session belonged to both teams.

Bangladesh managed to win two out of three sessions yesterday, the second

day, when they dispatched three more Australian batsmen in the first session. Young Mehedi Hasan Miraz dismissed the dangerous Aussie skipper Steven Smith to start the proceedings and the visitors went to lunch on 123 for six.

Australia however made a comeback, riding on tailenders Ashton Agar and Cummins, who added 49 runs for the ninth wicket to frustrate Bangladesh and more importantly, deprived Bangladesh of a big lead as Australia went to tea on 193 for eight.

Bangladesh managed to come back strong in the last session and bundled out Australia for 217, earning a 43-run lead. Openers Tamim and Soumya then displayed a sensible approach and were heading towards a perfect ending. Soumya however lost his cool and was dismissed in a rather irresponsible manner in the second last over of the day but the third session was claimed by Bangladesh.

With three more days to go and the Tigers resuming today with a lead of 88 and nine wickets in hand, there is still a lot of drama left in the match. Ultimately, the winner of the lion's share of the remaining sessions will emerge victorious as a draw seems nearly impossible, as long as the weather continues to be a good sport.

## MESSI'S BROTHER INVOLVED IN CAR CRASH

Matias Messi, the brother of Barcelona and Argentina star Leo, escaped with minor injuries after his car was involved in a collision with a lorry early on Saturday. Neither driver seriously injured after incident in Argentina. The accident took place in the Argentinian town of Pueblo Esther, Santa Fe province, with local police confirming that the driver of the other vehicle was unhurt. The causes of the crash are yet to be confirmed. However, the authorities are understood to believe that the incident may have occurred as a result of slippery conditions brought about by rain in the area. The front end of the 35-year-old's Audi was left heavily damaged by the impact, which also saw the lorry lose its left rear wheel. Younger sibling Leo was the match-winner for Barça at Alavés on Saturday afternoon, his second-half double earning his side a second LaLiga victory out of two.



—AGENCIES



Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal plays a dead-batted forward defensive shot which only reflects his steely determination. The Tigers need plenty of those when they come out to bat today to build on that 88-run lead against Australia.

PHOTO: STAR

## NAT'L WOMEN'S CHESS Shirin takes third title

SPORTS REPORTER

After five years, WFM Sharmin Sultana Shirin regained the National Women's Chess Championship title when she beat Aahelee Sarker in the ninth and final round at Bangladesh Chess Federation hall-room yesterday.

Shirin, who tasted her first defeat of the competition against Shamima Akter Liza in the penultimate round, later returned to winning ways and ensured the national championship title with eight points from nine matches. This is her third national title after winning the tournament twice before, in 2009 and 2012.

Four-time national champion Shamima also had a good opportunity to regain the title but had to be content with a second-place finish with 7.5 points after drawing against WFM Tanima Parveen in the final round. Tanima and 18-time national champion WIM Rani Hamid finished third and fourth respectively with seven points each.

## Asensio rescues Real

REUTERS, Barcelona



Spanish champions Real Madrid had to rely on two stunning strikes from a relentless Marco Asensio as they drew 2-2 at home to Valencia on Sunday while Sevilla grabbed a scarcely deserved first win of the campaign by beating Getafe 1-0.

Asensio, 21, delighted the Santiago Bernabeu with a long-range opening strike but Valencia scored two impressive team goals either side of the break through homegrown youngster Carlos Soler and debutant Geoffrey Kondogbia.

Marcelino's side led with 13 minutes to go, forcing Asensio to rescue Real with a superb free kick in the 83rd minute.

Madrid missed the presence of their talisman Cristiano Ronaldo and captain Sergio Ramos through suspension but almost stole the three points in stoppage-time when Karim Benzema's shot was turned on to the post by Valencia goalkeeper Neto.

"We've paid for the intense month we've had," said Real defender Dani Carvajal after his side's fifth competitive

game in 20 days.

"We had all types of chances and we could have got more from the game but Valencia are very strong opponents and they've taken a point off us."

Valencia coach Marcelino added: "We have to congratulate ourselves for how we played and the result. We leave here feeling very good about ourselves."

Real Madrid have four points from two games heading into the international break while Barcelona, Real Sociedad and Leganes won both their opening matches.

Asensio, who is proving to be a specialist at sensational goals, struck for the third time this season to give Madrid the lead in the 10th minute.

The Mallorcan picked the ball up 30 metres out and headed straight towards the goal, ping-pong it into the bottom corner with an exquisite finish from outside the area.

Valencia responded with a perfectly executed team move between three academy graduates. Jose Gaya began the play with a darting run down the left and released 19-year-old Toni Lato who delivered the cross which Soler crashed past Kaylor Navas.



Real Madrid winger Marco Asensio celebrates one of his two goals against Valencia during their La Liga encounter at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Arsenal 'cowards' blasted

AFP, London



Having been torn to pieces in their humiliating 4-0 defeat at Liverpool, a similar fate befell Arsene Wenger's Arsenal in the post-match post-mortems.

Wenger's players were variously described as "lazy", "pathetic", "arrogant" and "disgraceful", while the manager himself is under scrutiny once again just three months after signing a new two-year contract.

"Last season, I called them 'cowards'," former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher said on Sky Sports after Sunday's match.

"And afterwards maybe I got a little bit of criticism. Maybe that's a bit too strong and you can't say that on live TV, but I'll say it again -- cowards."

Arsenal's defeat, their second in succession after a 1-0 loss at Stoke City, exhibited failings that have become endemic under Wenger.

Defensive disorganisation allowed Liverpool to take control of the game and Arsenal's over-eagerness to get

back into the match left them hopelessly exposed on the counter-attack.

Liverpool's third goal, scored by Mohamed Salah in the 57th minute, summed up the Arsenal malaise.

Liverpool cleared a corner, Salah beat Hector Bellerin to a bouncing ball midway inside the hosts' half and then had a clear run on goal before beating goalkeeper Petr Cech.

Furious Arsenal fans on Twitter pointed out that in the build-up to Roberto Firmino's first-half opener, Aaron Ramsey and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain were not even looking at the ball.

"How can you play like this in a big game for so many of Arsenal's players?" asked former Manchester United captain Gary Neville.

"Forget not turning up, forget not playing well, but just the general attitude or lack of respect for the shirt from three or four of them in not running back and not bothering is disgraceful."

Arsenal great Thierry Henry, analysing the game for Sky Sports, confessed: "At one point I wanted to leave. I didn't want to watch the game any more. It's too much to take."

While it was Arsenal's defensive shortcomings that were exhibited at Anfield, the player who featured on almost all the British newspapers' sports pages was star forward Alexis Sanchez.

Making his return to action against Liverpool after an abdominal injury, the Chile international was despondency personified as he traipsed to the dug-out following his 62nd-minute substitution.

After the game, he took to Instagram to post a caption-free picture of him self sitting on his haunches on the Anfield pitch and dejectedly gazing at the ground.

Sanchez has been repeatedly linked with a move to Manchester City and Henry said none of Arsenal's players could be blamed for casting glances elsewhere.

"Everything that you see on the day has been happening for the past 10 years," said the Frenchman.

"We talk about Sanchez and is he staying, but they are not going to want to be part of this team. That is why players are not renewing their contracts. They can see something is wrong."

## MARCEL C'SHIP Kings atop the table

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings topped the Marcel Bangladesh Championship League table by handing a 3-1 defeat to T&T Club at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Mominur, Javeb and Kanchan struck one goal apiece for Kings while Jahangir pulled one goal back for T&T Club who remained at eight points from six matches while Kings have 12 points from six matches.

In the day's other match, Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool recorded a single-goal win over Nofel SC and leapfrogged to fifth position with eight points from six matches while Nofel were at the third position with their previous eight points.

## England seize control

AFP, Leeds



Moeen Ali's rapid 84 helped England turn the tide on the fourth day of the second Test against the West Indies at Headingley yesterday.

At stumps, the West Indies were five without loss in their second innings, needing a further 317 runs to reach a challenging victory total of 322.

Only one side have made more in the fourth innings to win a Test at Headingley, with Australia's celebrated 'Invincibles' scoring 404 for three at the Leeds ground in 1948 thanks mainly to opener Arthur Morris's 182 and an unbeaten 173 from Donald Bradman, widely regarded as cricket's greatest batsman.

West Indies will likely need a brilliant innings from one of their current top order if they are to level this three-match series at 1-1.

It was fresh evidence of England's batting strength in depth that No 8 Ali top-scored and put on 117 for the eighth wicket with No 9 Chris Woakes, the recalled all-rounder himself making 61 not out before England captain Joe Root declared with his side on 490 for eight.

That left the West Indies with a tricky six

overs to bat until the close but openers Kraigg Brathwaite and Kieran Powell survived.

The whole day's play represented a remarkable turnaround in the match given the West Indies had a first-innings lead of 169 runs -- a testament to a vastly improved batting and bowling, if not fielding, display after their embarrassing innings and 209-run defeat in the first Test at Edgbaston.

Fast bowler Shannon Gabriel proved expensive however, his 26 overs costing 125 runs -- including nine wides and 10 no-balls.

England had started the day's play just two runs ahead and already three wickets down.

But brisk fifties from Root (72)-- his second of the match on his Yorkshire home ground -- and Ben Stokes (58), following up his first-innings score of exactly 100, plus a painstaking 61 from Dawid Malan laid the platform for Ali's late-order assault.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

**ENGLAND:** First innings 258  
**WEST INDIES:** First innings 427  
**ENGLAND:** Second innings 490 for 8 (Moeen 84, Root 72, Woakes 61 not out; Chase 3-86)  
**WEST INDIES:** Second innings 5 for 0 (Brathwaite 4, Powell 1; Broad 0-1)

## Muguruza powers thru'

AFP, New York



Reigning Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza was excited to reach the second round yesterday at the US Open while former world number one Maria Sharapova was poised to swipe the Broadway spotlight.

Spanish third seed Muguruza matched her best showing on the New York hardcourts in five tries by defeating American Varvara Lepchenko 6-0, 6-3 for her first triumph in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Very happy I'm in the second round," said Muguruza. "I've been here so many times and I've never done very well. I will try again and hopefully it will happen."

The 23-year-old Spaniard improved to 17-2 since the start of her London Grand Slam title run, a stretch that also included a crown at Cincinnati in the last major US Open tuneup.

Muguruza, who won last year's French Open and reached this year's Australian Open quarter-finals, can reach the New York third round for the first time Wednesday by defeating either US qualifier Claire Liu or China's Duan Ying-Ying. After dominating the first set, Muguruza fought through most of the second before breaking 64th-ranked Lepchenko at love in the penultimate game.

Sharapova was set to face Romania's second-ranked Simona Halep in the night feature match, the Russian star's first Grand Slam match since serving a 15-month doping suspension.

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