Bangladesh v Pakistan Time: 7:00pm Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium Live from 4:00pm

BTV & CHANNEL 9

Nepal v Bhutan

Live from 4:00pm

Live from 7:00pm

Bangladesh v Pakistan

SAFF Championship

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 US Open Semifinals Live from 4:00am (Friday)

SATISFACTION FROM ROOT, KOHLI?

Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger will donate 20,000 pounds to charity Chance to Shine for each England or Indian century or five-wicket haul during the fifth and final Test at The Oval starting from Friday. His pledge also includes 10,000 pounds for every half-century or three-wicket haul. "I follow England - the game in general, in fact - from wherever I am in the world and thought this would be a fun way to make some money for Chance to Shine," said Jagger. "It's been an exciting series that has got people talking cricket so let's reflect that; with every inspiring performance comes a new fan and the younger those fans are, the better it is for cricket's future. "No pressure on either Joe Root's guys or Virat Kohli's -- though the bigger they go at The Oval the better."





Bangladesh's catching practice took a mischievous turn as giggling players were pushing the catcher, presumably to sharpen focus on the descending ball, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesteray.

BCB

'No substitute for performance'

SPORTS REPORTER



Will Liton Das be able to seize his opportunity and solve a longstanding problem?

The answer was very simple and straightforward to the right-hander -- only good performances will make him Tamim Iqbal's permanent opening partner. The 23-year-old batsman has already provided evidence about his ability and his strokemaking prowess allied with good defence has been cause for optimism. The question now is whether he can learn the craft of transforming good starts to big knocks.

"It's actually a good opportunity. have been out of the one-day team for long, so I will try my best to do well if I get a chance," said Liton, who played his last ODI in South Africa in October last year, while talking to reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Liton was well aware of the challenge in front of him, but knew that he would need to grab this opportunity. "Now there is nothing better than the performance. You want runs and I also want runs," said Liton.

"Those who are big cricketers can prolong their innings if they get the start. I still cannot be bracketed with the big cricketers, which is why I could not play the big knocks but I am trying my best to make something big happen," he added.

Liton said that he loves his style of batting as an attacking batsman and wants to establish himself with his natural character-

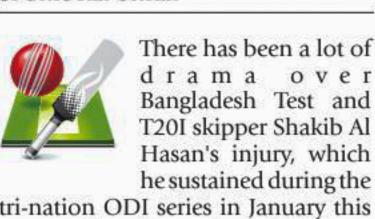
"I am now working on perfection in all shots. It will not be enough for you only to stay at the middle; you also have to score runs, but the shot selection is important and I am working on it," he said.

He was not thinking about a permanent place but instead focusing on the challenges in the Asia Cup, especially looking forward to the group matches against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

Liton also opined that the experience of playing the quick bowlers in South Africa and West Indies will make it easier to handle pacers in the Asia Cup and that he was also not worried about the legspin of Afghanistan's Rashid Khan because the 50-over format suits the Tigers most.

Shakib's fitness a contentious issue for Nazmul

SPORTS REPORTER



year, as the all-rounder said he was still experiencing problems in his left little finger with just 10 days to go for the Asia Cup opener against Sri Lanka on September 15.

Shakib had earlier revealed that he had taken injections to reduce the pain throughout the tour of West Indies last month and also expressed a desire to undergo surgery before the Asia Cup.

But Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan had asked Shakib to reconsider and schedule a surgery after the Asia Cup which and before the home series against Zimbabwe in October, presumably because it is a lower-profile and less demanding assignment.

The selectors named the 31-yearold in the 15-man Asia Cup squad but Shakib, currently in the United States and will directly join the team in Dubai, told The Daily Star on Tuesday that he is only 20-30 per cent fit and still has pain in his hand.

"I would say I am 20-30 percent fit right now. I still have pain in my hand, so honestly I don't know how I would bat or bowl. I am out of practice for some time so I have no idea," Shakib told The Daily Star



"I still have pain in my hand, so honestly I don't know how I would bat or bowl. I am out of practice for some time so I have no idea. "

Shakib Al Hasan

such injury mentally affects top

players like him, he said: "I don't

know. Normally top players don't

play if they have an injury. Let's see

when I go there -- if things don't look

good I might go straight for surgery

cian Debashish Chowdhury, playing

with such injuries is more a mental

than physical issue and that the

According to BCB's chief physi-

BCB CEO during a telephone interview. decision is up to Shakib, whether he would feel comfortable playing in When asked whether carrying

> the Asia Cup before surgery. "So far, the update is that Shakib is yet to decide whether he will be able to play the Asia Cup. As far as we know he will consult a doctor in New York and then take the decision. He played in that situation before and after that he was rested and the condition is supposed to improve after taking rest. My observation is it's more a mental thing

"If Shakib feels need for

change, he can inform or

the concerned

department can inform

the selectors and the

needful will be done."

Nizamuddin Chowdhury

than a physical issue and even if he plays with the current situation it's not that it will have a big damage. But if he does not feel comfortable, then it's difficult for a player to play. Overall, the decision is totally up to Shakib," Debashish told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, chief selector Minhajul Abedin said that he still has not heard the latest about Shakib's injury.

"We have no idea about his current injury situation as he played in the West Indies by taking injections to reduce the pain, and was supposed to undergo surgery after the Asia Cup. I don't want to make any comment without knowing the fact. But obviously, it's always challenging for the selectors when a player like Shakib is carrying such an injury," said Minhajul.

When asked whether the board is aware of Shakib's current situation, BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said: "Chief selector is involved in the selection process and he will be in touch with the concerned authorities and communicate accordingly. When a final squad is given you should consider that it's given after discussions and considering any problems of the player. If there is any need for further change or if Shakib feels, he can inform or the physio or the concerned department can inform the selectors and then the needful will be

Injury scare

SPORTS REPORTER

Young left-hander Nazmul Hossain Shanto suffered an injury on his right index finger during slip catching practice at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The 20-year-old, who was named in Bangladesh's 15-member squad for this month's Asia Cup, immediately left the field with the upper part of his index finger dislocated. The physio later put the finger in place and bandaged it.

"The upper part of Nazmul's finger was dislocated from its usual position. As there was no fracture witnessed, there is nothing to worry about and he was asked to rest. We will remove the bandage after two days," Bangladesh Cricket Board's chief physician Debashish Chowdhury said.

If the injury is more serious than thought and Nazmul is forced to miss the tournament starting on September 15 in the UAE, left-hander Mominul Haque -- who made a return to limited-overs cricket on the recent A team tour of Ireland -- will be one of the possible replacements.

'I have to be in the top three'

Griezmann says of Ballon d'Or

AFP, Paris



deserves to be on the podium for this year's Ballon d'Or after winning the World Cup and major silverware with Atletico Madrid. Griezmann came third in 2016 in the voting behind Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi for the

France star Antoine Griezmann insists he

most prestigious individual award in football, despite not winning anything. That year was agonising for the forward as he lost the Euro 2016 final with France and the Champions League final with Atletico. But this season fortune has smiled on Griezmann, who

starred in France's triumphant World Cup winning campaign in Russia after an impressive year at Atletico, who won the Europa League and UEFA Super Cup. "Comparing 2016 and this year, for me I have to be in the

top three," the 27-year-old said. "In 2016, I lost two finals and was in the top three. This time I have won three finals." Asked if not winning it would be unfair, Griezmann

replied: "Not unfair, but I would wonder what more I could do. I have won three trophies, stood out at decisive moments, but it is not me who votes."

However, there are signs that Griezmann's glorious 2018 on the field might not be enough. UEFA gave their award for the best player of last season to Luka Modric, skipper of the Croatia side that reached the World Cup final and a Champions League winner with Real. And Griezmann was omitted, along with the rest of his France teammates, from the final three nominees for FIFA's player of the year award.

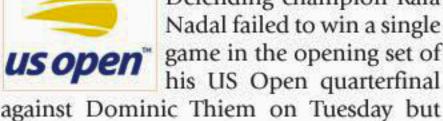
Asked about the FIFA snub, Griezmann replied that "it's bizarre, and a shame. It is a trophy given out by FIFA, isn't it?

"And the World Cup is organised by FIFA, right? We win the World Cup, and there is no French player there. That is their choice but it is surprising that there is no world champion."

Bagelled Nadal survives

from there.

REUTERS, New York



2:00am in New York.

very humid for me."

Rafael Nadal survived

Dominic Thiem, who

stunned the US Open

holder with a perfect

first set. However,

Nadal eventually

triumphed in the

a stern test from

ity, with Thiem becoming the first to 'ba-

"I'm very sorry for Dominic," Nadal

added. "He's a close friend on tour, a great guy

and I wish him the very best ... He is young

and has plenty of time to win tournaments."

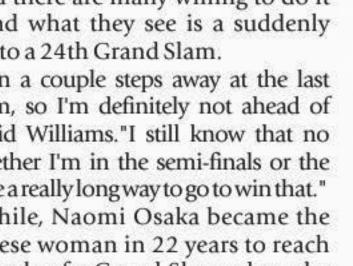
since Andy Roddick 14 years ago.

In the women's circuit, Serena William powered her way to within two victories of Defending champion Rafa a seventh title and while she refused to Nadal failed to win a single look ahead there are many willing to do it game in the opening set of for her, and what they see is a suddenly his US Open quarterfinal open path to a 24th Grand Slam.

"I'd been a couple steps away at the last fought back to beat the Austrian 0-6, 6-4, 7-Grand Slam, so I'm definitely not ahead of 5, 6-7(4), 7-6(5) in a match that ended after myself," said Williams."I still know that no matter whether I'm in the semi-finals or the Nadal struggled with the high humidfinals, I have a really long way to go to win that."

Meanwhile, Naomi Osaka became the gel' the Spaniard at Flushing Meadows first Japanese woman in 22 years to reach the semifinals of a Grand Slam when she "It's been a great battle," an exhausted defeated Lesia Tsurenko 6-1, 6-1 in the Nadal said. "The conditions were tough, last-eight.

Osaka wasn't born when compatriot Kimiko Date made the Wimbledon semifinals in 1996 but now the 20-year-old has the opportunity to go one better by reaching a maiden Grand Slam final.





four-hour-49-minute battle yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Croatia take on Ronaldoless Portugal Still riding the

wave of their historic World Cup run, Croatia are



check as their new season starts with a friendly against Portugal in Faro on Thursday. The daggers are out for Ravi

Shastri Many media reports claimed

and not Shastri



was the first choice for India head coach. It seems that after 3-1 Test series defeat against England away from home, the daggers are finally out.

Barca under pressure after Messi's title talk Barcelona forward Luis Suarez has said that Barcelona are

under pressure this season to win after Lionel Messi promised the supporters that the team will win the Champions League back from Real Madrid.



Sporting the newly-acquired second star on their shirt, the French national team recreated their now famous pre-match pose at training in Clairefontaine yesterday. The World Cup champions will take on Germany today in the UEFA Nations League. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Pogba welcome at Barca: Suarez

AFP, Barcelona



Luis Suarez believes Paul Pogba should be challenging for more trophies than he is at Manchester United and

would always be welcome at Barcelona. Pogba has endured a turbulent two years since returning to Old Trafford for a then world-record fee of 105 million euros and his relationship with coach

Jose Mourinho has become strained. The 25-year-old rediscovered his

France in the summer, when he inspired Les Bleus to World Cup glory in Russia, beating Uruguay and Suarez on the way.

But since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013, United have failed to go close in either the Premier League or Champions League, while Barca have won three La Ligas in that time and the Champions League once.

"Pogba is an elite player who has won everything and we always want to have the best," Suarez told RAC1 on Tuesday.

best form away from his club, for "He is a player that has a lot of quality and who is one of the key players at United, and I think he would like to compete for more than he is competing for now.

"But that's how it is, he does not belong to Barcelona but he will always be welcome."

One Champions League crown in five years, however, represents a disappointing return for Barca, particularly while rivals Real Madrid have dominated the tournament, winning it three times in a row.