

**HERRERA IN SPOTLIGHT AS FIXING TRIAL BEGINS**

Spain's first major match-fixing trial began Tuesday with former Manchester United midfielder Ander Herrera among 42 defendants charged over a 'suspect' 2011 match between his former club Real Zaragoza and Levante. The accused made no comments as they arrived at the court in Valencia. Real Zaragoza's 2-1 win on May 21, 2011, the last match of the season, spared the club relegation from the Spanish first division, but triggered an investigation over suspect payments to playing staff and coaches. Prosecutors suspect Zaragoza deposited 965,000 euros in the bank accounts of some of its players and coaching staff so that they, in turn, could bribe Levante players to deliberately lose the game.

-- AFP



# Nadal reigns in clash of ex-champs

AFP, New York

Rafael Nadal ramped up his quest for a fourth US Open title Monday with an impressive win over 2014 champion Marin Cilic to advance to the quarterfinals while Alexander Zverev slumped to a four-set defeat.

Second seed Nadal -- the winner at Flushing Meadows in 2010, 2013 and 2017 -- produced some electrifying moments of brilliance to end the challenge of Croatian 22nd seed Cilic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

After barely breaking a sweat in reaching the last 16, Nadal stared down his stiffest test so far to surge into a quarterfinal with Argentine 20th seed Diego Schwartzman.

The Spaniard exchanged the first two sets with Cilic but grasped control by breaking for 3-1 in the third, a series of dazzling winners drawing an animated fist-pump from golf legend Tiger Woods at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Nadal reeled off nine games in succession across the third and fourth sets and 12 of the final 15 to nail down a 40th Grand Slam quarterfinal appearance, nine of which have come at the US Open.

"The emotions I have when I play here are impossible to describe. I love the sport and feel very lucky to still be playing tennis here. Eight years ago I didn't think that would happen as my body was suffering badly," Nadal said.

"It's a huge honor playing in front of all of you and playing in front of Tiger is a very special thing. I always say I don't have big

idols but one idol is him and I always try to follow him." Nadal's path to the final sees him take on Schwartzman next after the Argentine chopped down sixth seed Zverev.

"He is playing amazing, nothing new, he's one of the players with best talent on tour," the 18-time Grand Slam champion said of his upcoming opponent.

"It will be a big challenge. I have to play my best. I'm happy for him. He's a close friend and I hope to play a great match."

Zverev rolled through the opening set against Schwartzman under the roof on Ashe during a rainy afternoon session, but he lost his way to go down 3-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

The German was enjoying his deepest run in New York but committed 17 double faults and 65 unforced errors and received a point penalty.

"Generally my season so far has not been the best," said Zverev, who added he was hindered by a "very swollen" back and right hip following a fall in his previous match.

"I had a lot of chances which I didn't use early in the match. He kind of ran away with it."

Zverev lost his serve three times during the second set but appeared to have steadied himself when he moved a break ahead at 3-2 in the third, only for Schwartzman to wrest the momentum back in his favor after a lengthy sixth game.

"It was tough because I was feeling I had the chance to win this and I had a few break points I could not take," Schwartzman said.

"He was up a break and then I recovered really quickly and I felt great after that."



Rafael Nadal defeated 2014 champion Marin Cilic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 on Monday in the US Open last 16 with an electrifying performance at Flushing Meadows, the highlight of which was a shot around the net which took him to match point.

PHOTO: AFP

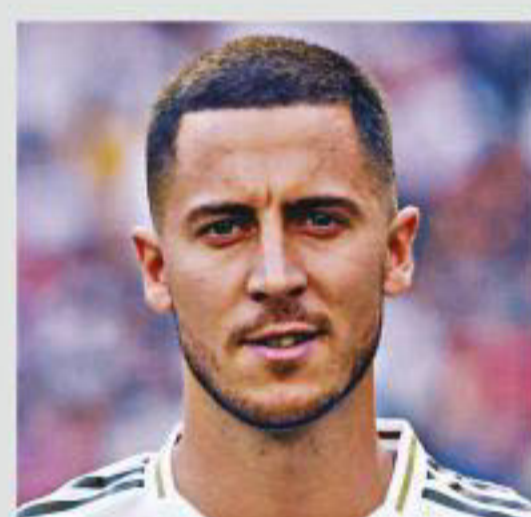
## THE 2019 SUMMER WINDOW AT A GLANCE



**Antoine Griezmann**  
Atletico to Barcelona  
€120m



**Joao Felix**  
Benfica to Atletico  
€126m



**Eden Hazard**  
Chelsea to Real Madrid  
€100m



**Harry Maguire**  
Leicester to Man Utd  
€88m



**Romelu Lukaku**  
Man Utd to Inter Milan  
€78m



**Nicolas Pepe**  
Lille to Arsenal  
€79 million



**Matthijs de Ligt**  
Ajax to Juventus  
€75 million



**Frenkie de Jong**  
Ajax to Barcelona  
€75 million



**Lucas Hernandez**  
Atletico to Bayern  
€80m



**BIGGEST SPENDERS**  
(Clockwise from Top L) Real Madrid €305 million, Barcelona €255m, Inter €170m, Atletico €247m, Juventus €192 million

**TOTAL SPENT BY TOP 5 LEAGUES IN EUROPE**

- €1.55 billion Premier League
- €1.37 billion La Liga
- €1.17 billion Serie A
- €740 million Bundesliga
- €670 million Ligue 1



## Girls target positive start

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh are determined to make a good start with a positive result against hosts Thailand in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship, which will be held in Chonburi from September 15 to 28.

The women in red and green were pitted in Group A alongside the hosts, with Japan and Australia being the other two teams. Group B features North Korea, South Korea, China and Vietnam. Two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals while the champions and runners-up teams will join hosts India in the 2020 Under-17 Women's World Cup.

The Bangladesh team management think that a win against Thailand may create a chance of progressing to the last four so all their focus will be on the first match.

"The first match is very important for us. If we win this match, anything can happen," coach Golam Rabbani Choton told reporters at a press conference at the Bangladesh Football Federation house yesterday.

Although neither the coach nor the captain was bold enough to say they could win against Japan or Australia, they feel that the experience gathered over the last two years would help the team do better than the previous edition.

Bangladesh had qualified for the event in 2017 after emerging as champions of the first qualifying round in Dhaka. Even though they lost all three matches of the final round, they improved gradually following a 9-0 defeat against eventual champions North

Korea. The women in red and green lost 3-0 against Japan before giving Australia a run for their money in an eventual 3-2 defeat.

This time though, the team management thinks the experience of playing against these teams and those in the South Asian region will help them do well.

"It's already a big achievement that we have been able to consecutively make it among the top eight out of the 47 teams in Asia. However, last time there was a gap in experience as we went from the first qualifying round right into the final round. But since we had to win two qualifying rounds this time, the gap in quality will be less. Furthermore, the experience of playing against these opponents before will help us," Choton said.

The 23-member squad features 11 players who were part of the squad two years ago, with this team's captain Maria Manda and vice-captain Akhi Khatun both part of the squad from two years ago. Maria, a key midfielder of the team, believes the first match will be key. "We have worked hard since qualifying for this. The match against Thailand is very important for us and we have had some good practice matches against our senior players."

The team will fly tomorrow for Thailand where they will play three practice matches against local sides on September 6, 9 and 11. **SQUAD:** Maria (C), Akhi (VC), Mahmuda, Rupna, Yeasmin, Nazma, Anai, Nila, Rituporna, Monica, Munni, Laboni, Sohagi, Sultana, Anuching, Nousun, Rehana, Shaheda, Shamsunnahar Sr, Shamsunnahar Jr, Tohura, Rojina, Sajeda.

# Transfer window ends with star loans

AFP, Paris

The transfer window shut gently across much of Europe with a flurry of loan deals instead of the anticipated bang of a mega-move.

Several big-name players did change clubs on loans, including Mauro Icardi moving to Paris Saint-Germain from Inter Milan and Nikola Kalinic and Henrikh Mkhitaryan going out to Roma from Atletico Madrid and Arsenal.

The biggest names among the permanent transfer were a pair of Central American veterans: Keylor Navas and Javier Hernandez.

The closure of the window interrupted the saga surrounding of Neymar, the world's most expensive player, who will stay at Paris Saint-Germain having failed to get the move back to Barcelona he craved for.

Real Madrid had also been linked with Neymar as well as Manchester United World Cup winner Paul Pogba and Tottenham's Christian Eriksen as part of the expensive refurbishment of Zinedine Zidane's squad.

Pogba excited speculation earlier in the day when he dropped out of France's two upcoming Euro 2020 qualifiers with an "ankle problem". Real did do one deal with PSG. It even involved a World Cup winner, but the marquee name was the Madrid



Argentine forward Mauro Icardi sealed a surprise loan move from Inter Milan to Paris Saint-Germain in the biggest deal of deadline day on Monday night.

PHOTO: PSG

club's backup goalkeeper. Navas joined PSG with French international Alphonse Areola moving in the opposite direction on loan.

PSG also pulled a late rabbit from their sleeve late with the loan signing of Argentine striker Icardi "with an option to buy."

Icardi was joint top scorer in Serie A in 2017-18, but amid a series of disputes he was stripped of the Inter Milan captaincy last season and barred from full training. He started legal action against the club. Barcelona were not entirely inactive. They

extended the contract of attacking midfielder Rafinha and then loaned him to Celta Vigo, where he also spent the 2013-2014 season.

Even without a deadline-day blockbuster, La Liga clubs spent a record 1.3 billion euros on players including Eden Hazard, Rodri and Ferland Mendy to Real, Antoine Griezmann and Frenkie de Jong to Barca and Joao Felix to Atletico Madrid.

Manchester United sold 29-year-old Italy full-back Matteo Darmian to Parma. The fee was reportedly 1.4 million.

Mexican striker Javier Hernandez joined Sevilla from West Ham on a three-year deal. The Spanish club reportedly paid 7.3 million for the 31-year-old 'Chicharito'.

Turkish giants Fenerbahce signed midfielder Luiz Gustavo, a 32-year-old Brazil international and former Bayern Munich man, from Marseille for 7 million euros.

Meanwhile, Jerome Boateng did not want to leave. The 30-year-old Bayern centre back had been reportedly on the point of moving to Juventus but decided to stay in Munich.

Other Italian clubs shuffled strikers. AC Milan swapped players with Eintracht Frankfurt. Croatia's Ante Rebic moved to Italy on a two-year loan. Portuguese Andre Silva moved the other way.

Galatasaray confirmed the signing of Colombian striker Radamel Falcao.



Cristiano Ronaldo lifted the Portuguese Player of the Year award for the 10th time in his career in Lisbon, beating out Joao Felix and Bernardo Silva.

PHOTO: AFP