

What to WATCH

GTV

Bangladesh v Afghanistan

Only Test, Day-1

Live from 10:00am

SONY SIX

The Ashes

England v Australia

Fourth Test, Day-2

Live from 4:00pm

TEN 2

EURO 2020 Qualifiers

Armenia v Italy

Live from 10:00pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1&2

US Open

Semifinals

Live from 2:00am (Friday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v Afghanistan

Only Test, Day-1

Time: 10:00am

Venue: ZACS, Chattogram



CONTRASTING EMOTIONS: Serena Williams (L) celebrates after winning her women's singles quarterfinal against Qiang Wang while a dejected Roger Federer walks off the court after losing to Grigor Dimitrov in the men's singles quarterfinals of the US Open at Flushing Meadows in New York on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Dimitrov stuns Federer

Serena claims 100th US Open win

AFP, New York

Grigor Dimitrov rallied for a shocking upset of 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer at the US Open on Tuesday, the lowest-ranked New York semifinalist in 28 years advancing to face Daniil Medvedev.

The 78th-ranked Bulgarian, who had dropped all seven prior meetings with Federer, made a dramatic fightback to defeat the Swiss third seed 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 at Arthur Ashe Stadium and will face Russian fifth seed Medvedev in Friday's semis.

"I'm just happy," Dimitrov said. "The only thing I was telling myself was to stay in the match. Physically I was feeling pretty good. I was hitting some shots against him that were hard to hit."

Dimitrov reached his first US

Open semifinal to match the deepest Slam runs of his career from Wimbledon in 2014 and the 2017 Australian Open.

Federer went off the court for a private medical timeout to treat his upper back near his neck.

"This is Grigor's moment, not my body's moment," Federer said.

Dimitrov broke Federer twice on the way to a 4-0 lead in the final set and the 38-year-old Swiss star had no effective reply, foiled by 61 unforced errors in falling after three hours and 12 minutes.

"It's OK. It's how it goes," Federer said. "I tried my best. I fought with what I had and that's it."

MEDVEDEV ADVANCES TO SEMIS

Russia's Daniil Medvedev shook off a leg injury to reach his first Grand Slam semifinal at the US Open by defeating three-time major winner

Stan Wawrinka.

Fifth seed Medvedev's 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 triumph sent him into a Friday matchup against Bulgaria's 78th-ranked Grigor Dimitrov.

"I feel really strange about this match but I'm really happy to be in my first semifinal," Medvedev said.

Medvedev, at 23, becomes the youngest US Open semifinalist since Novak Djokovic in 2010 and Russia's first Slam semifinalist since Mikhail Youzhny in the 2010 US Open.

RUTHLESS SERENA EARNS 100TH WIN

Serena Williams earned her 100th win at the US Open with a brutal 6-1, 6-0 demolition of Chinese 18th seed Wang Qiang in just 44 minutes to set up a semi-final clash with Elina Svitolina.

Six-time US Open champion Williams smacked 25 winners

against Wang, who failed to hit a single one, in a complete mismatch that was the quickest at this year's tournament.

"Wow, wow," said Williams, who brought up a century of US Open wins to move to within one of the all-time record held by Chris Evert.

"It's really unbelievable, literally. From when I first started here, I think I was 16, I didn't think I would ever get to 100. I didn't think I would still be out here."

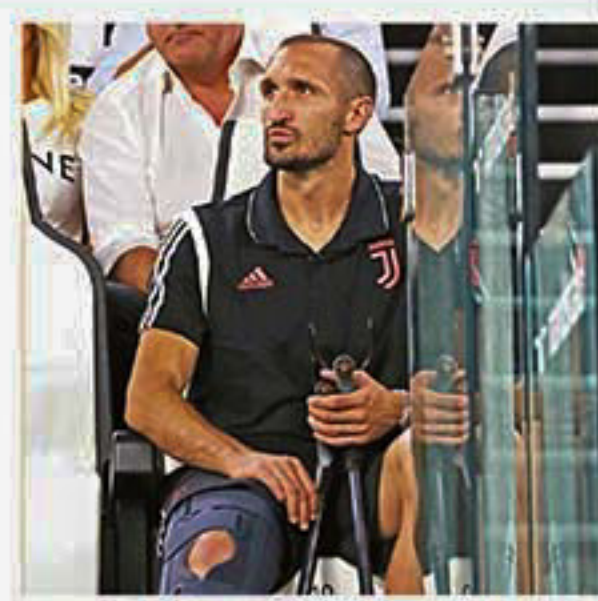
"Physically I'm feeling great. More than anything I'm just having fun every time I come out here."

Serena Williams is now two wins shy of capturing her 24th career Grand Slam title to match Margaret Court's all-time record.

Williams captured her last Slam title at the 2017 Australian Open while pregnant and hasn't won the US Open since 2014.

CHIELLINI OUT FOR SIX MONTHS

Veteran Juventus captain Giorgio Chiellini underwent successful surgery on a torn knee ligament the club said on Tuesday, saying they expected him back in action in six months. The eight-time reigning champions have signed 20-year-old Dutch defender Matthijs De Ligt. The young Dutchman had a poor Serie A debut at the weekend as Juventus conceded three goals in the second half at home to Napoli before escaping with a 4-3 victory. The defensive display suggested that the loss of the 35-year-old Chiellini, who watched from the stands with his knee in a brace, will be a blow. -- AFP



Day unfazed despite practice match defeat

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh national football team are looking to avail goal-scoring opportunities in their second practice match for the Joint Qualifiers of the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup when they take on CSKA Pamir Dushanbe at the Hisor Stadium in Tajikistan today.

The charges of Jamie Day started their training camp in Dushanbe with a 2-0 defeat against Tajikistan Premier League outfit FC Kukhtosh on Tuesday after reaching Dushanbe in the early hours of Monday.

Despite the defeat, the coach believes his team played good football in line with his desire and there was no need for a better performance against CSKA Pamir.

"[The performance of the boys was] very good, just what we needed. They boys played well," was the evaluation of Day about the first match.

"We played well [in the first match], so don't need to play better [in the second match]. Just may be take the chances we

created," Day opined through a social media exchange yesterday.

The coach fielded all the 23 players except for injured midfielder Mashuk Mia Jonny and goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel against FC Kukhtosh and he is planning to test everyone again in the second match ahead of the first qualifying match against Afghanistan on September 10.

On Tuesday, centre-back Riyadul Hasan played full 90 minutes while 10 other players were replaced in the second half. Abahani players, who joined the national team on August 31 following their AFC Cup inter-zone semifinal against April 25 SC, were used for only the last 25 minutes.

The British coach is not worried with the outcome of the practice match as he is seemingly focused on using these practice matches to finalise his starting eleven for the Afghanistan match.

"There will be no impact on the team due to the defeat because we are just using the matches to get sharper and prepared [for the main match of World Cup Qualifiers]," said Day.

I withdraw my statement: Kamal

SPORTS REPORTER

Finance Minister and former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal apologized yesterday for the statement he made regarding the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) on Tuesday.

Kamal had said that there is 'no chance' the BPL can be held this year. However, he withdrew his statement during a press briefing at the Secretariat yesterday.

"I called my former personal assistant [in BCB] today [Wednesday] and asked him to clarify me about the situation. Then he explained to me that different countries who have domestic leagues are trying to bring in some restrictions on the domestic leagues like BPL. So this message was conveyed to me differently.

"And I texted the media house [the one to whom I gave my initial statement] on Tuesday night that I withdraw my statement," said Kamal yesterday.

SOUTH ASIAN GAMES

24 selected for athletics

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Athletics Federation yesterday finalised a 24-member squad for the upcoming South Asian Games with the inclusion of nine new faces who showed potential in the just-concluded summer meet.

The BAF started the camp on July 15 at BKSP with 26 athletes under the guidance of five coaches.

The BAF is also on the verge of signing up South African sprint and hurdles coach Godwin Odinukaeze, who is supposed to arrive by September 15.



Australia's Steve Smith plays a straight drive on way to an unbeaten half-century on the first day of the fourth Ashes Test against England at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Smith in control as Aus reach 170 for 3

REUTERS, Manchester

Steve Smith continued his outstanding Ashes form, striking an unbeaten 60 as Australia recovered from another failure by their openers to reach 170-3 at the close of the rain-affected first day of the fourth test against England at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Rain caused a delay of over two hours after lunch but plans to extend play to regain that lost time were abandoned after rain came in again during the break for tea.

The afternoon delay did little to disrupt Smith, though, who returning from missing the last test due to concussion, made his eighth straight Ashes half-century.

The series is tied a 1-1 with two tests remaining and victory for the Australians would ensure they retain the urn.

Smith and Marnus Labuschagne put on 116 for the third wicket before the latter was bowled by a beautiful delivery from Craig Overton for 67.

It was a much-needed stand

after England, on a high after their remarkable comeback win at Headingley, made a great start, bringing their supporters to their feet with just the fourth ball of the day.

Stuart Broad claimed the wicket of David Warner for the fifth time in this series with the left-hander caught behind as he made a belated decision to leave the ball but gave a thin outside edge to Jonny Bairstow.

Australia found themselves at 28-2 when Broad rapped the pads of Marcus Harris and, after some consideration, umpire Kumar Dharmasena raised his finger and his verdict was upheld by video review.

Australia's openers have averaged 15.14 – not since 1888 have their top two contributed less during an Ashes series.

The departure of Harris brought the returning Smith to the crease after 38 minutes of play, the world's number one-ranked batsman having missed the previous test due to concussion as a result of a bouncer from Jofra Archer.

To the delight of the crowd, Archer

had the ball in hand and it took him three deliveries to attempt another bouncer. But with England sensing a chance to eat into the Aussie middle order before lunch, Smith and Labuschagne quickly settled and set about upping the run-rate.

Labuschagne, retained in the side after replacing Smith as a substitute for the second innings at Lord's and at Headingley, went on to make his fourth straight half century.

Ominously for England, Smith, who has two centuries and a 92 to his name in the series, looked as if he had never been away as he calmly dealt with Joe Root's attack.

He brought up his fifty, lavishly driving Ben Stokes for four through cover but the Manchester weather prospect of a third ton in this series will have to wait until Thursday.

Travis Head was unbeaten on 18 at the close.

Australia captain Tim Paine had won the toss and chose to bat with fast bowler Mitchell Starc given his first appearance in the series after replacing Peter Siddle.



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