

# What to WATCH

**GAZI TV**  
Bangladesh v Afghanistan  
Solitary Test, Day Four  
Live from 9:30am

**SONY SIX**  
The Ashes  
England v Australia  
Fourth Test, Day Five  
Live from 4:00pm

**STAR SPORTS SELECT 1**  
US Open  
Men's singles final  
Medvedev v Nadal  
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh v Afghanistan  
Solitary Test, Day Four  
Time: 9:30am

Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium

## Nadal faces Medvedev in final

AFP, New York

Rafael Nadal will play for his 19th Grand Slam title, one shy of Roger Federer's all-time men's record, after battling past Italy's Matteo Berrettini on Friday and into his fifth US Open final.

The 33-year-old Spaniard dispatched Berrettini 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach a Sunday showdown against Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev, who ousted Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3.

"Very happy to be back into the final of the US Open," Nadal said. "It means a lot to be back where I am today after some tough moments at the beginning of the season."

Nadal, who shook off an early season right hip injury to win a 12th French Open title, seeks his fourth US Open crown -- one short of the Open-era record of five shared by Federer, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors -- to reach the brink of Federer's mark.

"It's just another chance on Sunday," Nadal said. "I want to enjoy a day off, have a good practice and

Sunday is the day to play my best."

Nadal, into his 27th Grand Slam final, beat Medvedev in last month's Montreal final in their only prior meeting. But the world number two skipped Cincinnati, where Medvedev was champion the following week.

"He's one of the more solid players on tour," Nadal said of Medvedev. "He's making steps forward every single week."

"I need to be playing at my best." Medvedev, in his first Grand Slam final at 23, has gone 20-2 in the past six weeks with runner-up efforts in Washington and Canada, a title in Cincinnati and a breakthrough US Open run.

"I'm just happy to be in the final," Medvedev said. "When I was going to USA, I didn't know it was going to be this good. So I have to say I love USA."

Medvedev is the first Russian in a men's Grand Slam final since Marat Safin won the 2005 Australian Open title and the first Russian to reach the US Open final since Safin won the 2000 crown.

Nadal has dropped only one set at the Open but was severely tested by 24th seed Berrettini, the first Italian

man in the US Open semifinals since Corrado Barazzutti in 1977.

Berrettini denied Nadal on six break points in the first set, jumped ahead 4-0 in the tie-break and seized two set points at 6-4 as the Ashe crowd roared with delight.

But the Italian netted two backhand volleys, a baseline backhand and then hit a forehand long to hand Nadal the set.

Nadal, who never faced a break point, took his first break for a 4-3 lead in the second set, held twice to take the set, then rolled to victory in two hours, 35 minutes.

US Open fans gave solid applause to Medvedev after earlier-round boos for flashing an obscene gesture and taunts saying he thrived on their jeers for energy to win. He later apologized.

Medvedev took the first-set tie-break after Dimitrov netted a forehand and sent another long on the last two points.

Dimitrov netted a backhand to surrender a break and the second set in the 10th game. Medvedev broke for a 3-1 lead in the third set and held to the finish.



(L) Rafael Nadal celebrates his victory against Matteo Berrettini while Daniil Medvedev is delighted after winning against Grigor Dimitrov in their men's singles semifinals of the US Open at Flushing Meadows in New York on Friday. PHOTO: AFP



Australia's Mitchell Starc (C) celebrates the wicket of England's Ben Stokes during the fourth day of the fourth Ashes Test at Old Trafford yesterday. Starc took three wickets for 80 runs. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Aus on verge of keeping Ashes

AFP, Manchester

Pat Cummins took two wickets in two balls, including England captain Joe Root for a golden duck, to leave Australia on the brink of retaining the Ashes at Old Trafford on Saturday.

England were 18-2 in their second innings at stumps on the fourth day of the fourth Test, still needing a further 365 runs on Sunday's last day to reach a target of 383.

By contrast, Australia require eight wickets to seal a win that would see the holders keep the Ashes at 2-1 up with one to play in a five-Test series.

The most England have made in the fourth innings to win a Test the 362/9 they posted in their series-levelling success last time out at Headingley, where Ben Stokes's stunning 135 not out and the resistance of No 11 Jack Leach secured a remarkable one-wicket victory.

Earlier, Steve Smith's remorseless run-glut continued as he made 82 -- his lowest score this series -- in Australia's second innings 186-6 declared.

Australia captain Tim Paine's decision left England with an awkward 30 minutes in which to bat.

Rory Burns and Root had shared a partnership of 141 while making 81 and 71 respectively in England's first-innings 301.

But on Saturday they were both out for nought in the first over of England's chase.

Left-handed opener Burns, looking to turn Cummins's third ball leg side, got a leading edge and was caught at short cover by Travis Head.

Next ball a brilliant delivery that nipped away off the seam and clipped the top of off stump saw Root bowled by an elated Cummins for his third nought of the series and second golden duck.

Cummins was on a hat-trick, with the struggling Jason Roy next in but the World Cup winner responded to the crisis with a solid forward defensive shot and he got through to stumps on eight not out, with Joe Denly unbeaten on 10.

Earlier, Smith's ninth successive Ashes fifty, extending his own record, followed his superb 211 in the first innings of his comeback Test after he missed the match at Headingley with a concussion suffered when hit by a 92mph Jofra Archer bouncer at Lord's.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
AUSTRALIA: First innings 497 for 8 decl. & second innings 186 for 6 decl. (Smith 82, Wade 34; Archer 3-45, Broad 2-54)

ENGLAND: First innings 301 (Burns 81, Root 71; Hazlewood 4-57, Cummins 3-60, Starc 3-80) & second innings 18 for 2 (Denly 10 not out, Roy 8 not out; Cummins 2-8)

## Neymar shines on Brazil return

AFP, Miami

Neymar didn't disappoint in his much anticipated return Friday, grabbing a second-half equalizer for Brazil in a 2-2 friendly draw with Colombia on Friday.

The Paris Saint-Germain star was playing for the first time for club or country since suffering an ankle injury in a friendly against Qatar in June, which ruled him out of the Copa America.

Since then the Brazilian star had been embroiled in a long-running transfer saga that ended this week with the Brazilian staying at PSG -- a return to Barcelona finally ruled out.

Before a sell-out crowd of 65,232 at Hard Rock Stadium, home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, Neymar delivered for Brazil, scoring the equalizer in the 58th after setting up Casemiro for the game's opening goal in the 20th minute.

Colombia were lacking top stars James Rodriguez and Radamel Falcao, but thanks to Luis Muriel's brace they gave Copa America champions Brazil a fright before Neymar rode to the rescue and Tite's men extended their unbeaten run.

Although Neymar made a quiet start, it was his cross from a corner that found a soaring Casemiro, who nodded past

helpless Colombian keeper David Ospina to open the scoring.

The lead didn't last long as Luis Muriel converted from the spot in the 25th after taking a high kick from Alex Sandro.

Less than 10 minutes later Muriel fired Colombia ahead 2-1. Roger Martinez launched the counter-attack and Duvan Zapata played a ball out wide to Muriel, who blasted past Ederson.

Brazil almost pulled level seven minutes into the second half but Philippe Coutinho's attempt went wide.

Coutinho was key to Brazil's 58th-minute equalizer, finding Dani Alvez from the halfway line. Alvez's cross found Neymar, who was in the right place to slot a side-footed shot into an empty net.

The draw extended Brazil's unbeaten run to 17 matches, a streak that dates back to their 2018 World Cup elimination by Belgium.

Neymar notched his 61st international goal, put him one behind Ronaldo, who sits second on Brazil's all-time list headed by Pele's 77.

Both countries will be back in action on Wednesday, with Brazil hosting Peru in a Copa America final rematch in Los Angeles and Colombia taking on Venezuela in Tampa, Florida.



Brazil superstar Neymar celebrates his equalising goal against Colombia during their international friendly at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami on Friday. Neymar also provided the assist for the opening goal in a 2-2 draw. PHOTO: AFP

## Fahad leaves for Russia today

SPORTS REPORTER

Chess prodigy Fahad Rahman will leave for Russia today to take part in the FIDE World Chess Championship, which will get underway from Tuesday.

Fahad, who earlier this year earned his rights to become an International Master after winning the Asian Zonal Championship in Dhaka, will play his first-round match against the second-seed Grandmaster Anish Giri of Netherlands.

International arbiter Haroon Or Rashid, who has been appointed as arbiter in the World Cup, will accompany Fahad.

## Messi 'can leave' at end of season

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Friday the Spanish giants are not worried about Lionel Messi's future, despite the Argentinian star being able to leave the club at the end of the season.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner signed a new four-year deal with Barca in 2017, but Bartomeu says he is free to end his contract beforehand.

"Leo Messi has a contract through to the 2020/21 season, but the player is able to leave Barca before the final season," Bartomeu told Barcelona's in-house television channel.

"It's the same case as with the final contracts that Xavi, (Carles) Puyol and (Andres) Iniesta had. They are players who deserve that liberty, and we shouldn't worry, as they are very committed to Barca."

"We want Messi to play for Barca through to 2021 and beyond. We are very calm."



Netherlands forward Donyell Malen scores the third goal past Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer in their Euro 2020 qualifier in Hamburg on Friday. Netherlands won the match 4-2. PHOTO: AFP

## Netherlands stun Germany

AFP, Paris

Germany suffered a surprising 4-2 home defeat by the Netherlands as World Cup runners-up Croatia hammered Slovakia in qualifying for Euro 2020 on Friday.

Joachim Loew's side lost in Hamburg after debutant Donyell Malen's late effort for the visitors as the home side failed to pick up a point for the first time in the campaign.

Serge Gnabry scored for the Germans after nine minutes before new Barcelona signing Frenkie de Jong responded for the Dutch.

A Jonathan Tah own goal with less than an hour to play gave the travelling Dutch fans something to cheer about before Toni Kroos equalised from the spot.

PSV Eindhoven's 20-year-old Malen then beat Manuel Neuer with a volley on 79 minutes and Liverpool midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum secured three points in injury time.

"We made some mistakes, which explains the Germans' opener, but we simply did more to get the win," Netherlands head coach Ronald Koeman said.

In Trnava, Croatia retained top spot in Group G with a 4-0 thumping of Slovakia as Nikola Vlacic, Ivan Perisic,

## Senior div football underway

SPORTS REPORTER

The TVS Senior Division Football League got underway at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Kawranbazar Pragati Sangha, who were demoted from the Bangladesh Championship League last season, got a 2-0 win over Koshaituli Samaj Kalyan Parishad, with Mohammad Afroz scoring both the goals for the winning side in the first half of the match.

13 teams are taking part in this third-tier football league of the country, which is being held after a one-year gap.

## Eto'o hangs up his boots

AFP, Paris

Cameroon's four-time African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o announced his retirement on Saturday at the age of 38.

"The end, towards a new challenge," the former Barcelona, Inter Milan and Chelsea striker posted on Instagram.

"Thank you all, big love, adreanal," added Eto'o, who enjoyed five hugely successful seasons with Barcelona from 2004 to 2009.

In that time he won a pair of Champions League titles and three La Liga crowns before departing for Inter Milan.

He helped Jose Mourinho's team win the treble of Champions League, Serie A and Coppa Italia titles in his first season in Italy before moving to Russia's Anzhi Makhachkala.

He also had brief stints at Chelsea and Everton in the Premier League.

Last year, after a short spell with Turkish side Konyaspor, he joined Qatar league side, Qatar Sports Club, his last club.