

What to WATCH

BANGLA TV  
2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifier  
Afghanistan v Bangladesh  
Live from 8:00pm

DALOT VISITS ‘MIRACLE DOCTOR’ IN CHINA

Injured Manchester United defender Diogo Dalot has been having treatment at Chinese club Shanghai SIPG under a Brazilian physio known as the “Miracle Doctor”. The 20-year-old Portuguese right-back is yet to feature this season and manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said last month that he was out until after the current international break. What Solskjaer did not say is that Dalot was suffering with a hip problem and had gone to see Shanghai’s physio Eduardo Santos. Dalot landed in Shanghai on August 29 and spent 10 days with the Chinese champions, the club said, publishing a photo of the defender at their training ground. Santos was dubbed “Miracle Doctor” by French media in 2015 after getting defender David Luiz fit in just a few days after a serious hamstring tear.

AFP

KEY POINTS

Nadal moved one shy of Roger Federer’s all-time men’s record 20 Grand Slam triumphs.

The 33-year-old Spanish left-hander became the second-oldest New York champion in the Open era after Ken Rosewall in 1970 at age 35.

Nadal is the first man to claim five major titles after turning 30.

At four hours and 50 minutes, the match finished four minutes short of equalling the longest final in US Open history.

Serving for the match, Nadal was broken when umpire Ali Nili issued Nadal a time violation for his first serve and the Spaniard sent his second long.

Rafael Nadal takes a bite out of the US Open trophy after winning the men’s singles final against Daniil Medvedev at Flushing Meadows in New York on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Praise for Paine’s ‘unflinchables’

AGENCIES, Sydney

Australia’s media turned the praise up to 11 as they basked in Tim Paine’s side retaining the Ashes in Manchester on Sunday, which also closed 18 months of introspection and abuse following a ball-tampering scandal that tore the team apart.

Fast bowler Pat Cummins finished with match figures of 7-103, while former captain Steve Smith scored 293 runs at Old Trafford as they sealed a 185-run win that ensured they retained the sport’s oldest trophy with a match to spare.

Tim Paine’s legacy as Australia’s Test captain is assured after he achieved what higher-profile predecessors Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke failed to do - bringing home the Ashes.

If Don Bradman’s team of 1947-48 are The Invincibles, then Paine’s

class of 2019 are The Unflinchables, who overcame the trauma of the ball-tampering scandal and the heartbreak at Headingley to become the first Australian men’s side to retain the urn in England in 18 years.

Dubbed the “accidental captain” after taking over in the aftermath of the sandpaper scandal, the understated Paine now takes his place alongside revered captains such as Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh and Bradman to have succeeded in England.

When Paine was appointed skipper during Australian cricket’s darkest hour, it’s doubtful even he could have foreseen being in the team huddle at Old Trafford some 18 months later singing the John Williamson classic True Blue to

celebrate an Ashes triumph.

“The man charged with resurrecting Australian cricket’s reputation - skipper Tim Paine - deserves a lot of credit for the success of the team. He’s been a calming influence, has a steady pair of gloves, has made some useful contributions with the bat and provided commonsense leadership. In short, he was the right man for a difficult job in desperate times,” Ian Chappell wrote in his column in the Sydney Morning Herald.

“Australia looked manifold, unified, overwhelming, and almost purified by their victory - and perhaps, to an extent, they were,” Gideon Haigh wrote in The Australian on Monday.



It has been a series dominated by the ball. Look, both batting sides have very experienced players who have not performed how they would have liked, and that tells a story by itself. Take Steve Smith out and it would be very similar from both teams.

JOE ROOT  
ENGLAND CAPTAIN

# ‘Did it in a short time, not 13-14 years’

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Former stalwarts of the Bangladesh national team such as Aminul Islam, Akram Khan and many others retired before the country got its first taste of success in Tests five years after getting Test status in 2000.

However that is one experience veteran Afghanistan all-rounder Moahammad Nabi, who announced his retirement from the format following the one-off Test against Bangladesh, will gladly forgo. Nabi will retire with the satisfaction of having helped Afghanistan win two of the three Tests the side have played so far.

Afghanistan won the solitary Test against the Tigers by a whopping 224 runs at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium in Chattogram yesterday to provide the perfect farewell for Nabi.

Nabi credited the win to his country’s domestic structure, which stands strong despite the many limitations in a war-raved nation like Afghanistan, stating that with the way things are shaping up, the future seems bright.

“It is a historical win because in this format, we are new. We have played only three games against India, Ireland and Bangladesh, of which we won two. It means we are good in this format and that our domestic structure is strong. The youngsters, the way they play and adjust to conditions, it’s really a brilliant team. Maybe the youngsters who will play in this format have a bright future,” Nabi told reporters yesterday.

“I dreamt of playing Test cricket for Afghanistan. We worked really hard for this in

I didn’t know Bangladesh is going to play against Afghanistan. Hopefully Afghanistan will win that football match as well. They have strong players, many of whom play in European conditions. There are few players who are my friends as well so I hope they will win it.

MOHAMMAD NABI  
Afghanistan all-rounder

a short time, not in 13 or 14 years, we achieved that target within eight to seven years. We played the inter-continental cup three times, winning twice while being runner-ups once. I am very happy to be a part of that generation of Afghanistan. My plan is that the youngsters should be prepared for the next Tests as they are our future. That’s why I am leaving Tests and focusing on one-day internationals and T20s,” continued Nabi.

According to the 34-year-old, the experience of playing in the Bangladesh Premier League T20 competition alongside his national team skipper, Rashid Khan, for the past three to four years helped them plan for the Test against Bangladesh. Nabi also cited the team combination, which was missing during their disappointing World Cup campaign, as a reason behind the current success.

## BD-AFG SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN: First innings 342 and second innings 260				
BANGLADESH: First innings 205				
BANGLADESH: Second innings (overnight 136 for 6)				
Liton lbw b Zahir	9/30	0/0		
Shadman lbw b Nabi	41/114	4/0		
Mosadddek c Asghar b Zahir	12/17	0/0		
Mushfiqur lbw b Rashid	23/25	4/0		
Mominul lbw b Rashid	3/8	0/0		
Shakib c Afzar b Zahir	44/54	4/0		
Mahmudullah c Ibrahim b Rashid	7/21	0/0		
Soumya c Ibrahim b Rashid	15/59	2/0		
Mehedi lbw b Rashid	12/28	1/0		
Tajjul lbw b Rashid	0/6	0/0		
Nayeem not out	1/8	0/0		
Extras: (b-4, lb-2)	6			
Total: (All out in 61.4 overs)	173			
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-52, 3-78, 4-82, 5-106, 6-125, 7-143, 8-166, 9-166, 10-173.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Yamin	4	1	14	0
Nabi	20	5	39	1
Rashid	21.4	6	49	6
Zahir	15	0	59	3
Qais	1	0	6	0

Result: Afghanistan won by 224 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Rashid Khan.

## U-16s win practice match

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh under-16 women’s football team notched their second victory in two practice matches with a 3-1 win over Muangthong U-17 Girls Academy team in Chonburi yesterday.

The Bangladesh team conceded an early lead, but two goals from Anuching Moghina and one from Tohura Khatun sealed their victory.

# Unforgettable day for Nadal

AFP, New York

Delivering one of his most dramatic major final performances, Rafael Nadal captured his 19th career Grand Slam title Sunday by winning his fourth US Open, outlasting Russia’s Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4.

“Has been one of the most emotional nights in my tennis career,” Nadal said.

A video tribute in the wake of his gritty triumph moved Nadal to tears.

“The way that the match became very dramatic at the end, that makes this day unforgettable,” Nadal said.

“Watching all the success, all the moments that came to my mind, I tried to hold the emotion, but some moments was impossible.”

It took a supreme effort from the Spanish maestro, who nearly became the first player to drop the final after leading by two sets since Ted Schroeder in 1949 before winning a near five-hour thriller.

“This victory means a lot,” Nadal said. “And the way it happened. It was hard to control the nerves. The nerves were so high after having the match almost under control.”

World number two Nadal took the top prize of \$3.85 million at Arthur Ashe Stadium and added to his US Open trophy haul from 2010, 2013 and 2017.

Nadal, who rose to 22-12 in five-set matches, only lost once at a Slam when up two sets, to Italy’s Fabio Fognini in the 2015 US Open third round.

“I more or less had the match under control,” Nadal said. “The way he was able to fight, to change the rhythm of the match, was incredible.” It was the second Slam title of the year for Nadal after taking his 12th French Open crown in June.

In addition to reaching the brink of

Federer’s mark, Nadal moved one shy of the Open era record five US Open titles won by Federer, Jimmy Connors and Pete Sampras.

“A 19th Grand Slam title is something unbelievable, outrageous,” Medvedev said.

Medvedev, who will rise to a career-best fourth in the rankings, was a champion at Cincinnati and runner-up at Montreal, Washington and the Open.

“His summer was one of the best

MOST GRAND SLAMS		
20	Roger Federer	(Switzerland)
19	Rafael Nadal	(Spain)
16	Novak Djokovic	(Serbia)
14	Pete Sampras	(USA)
12	Roy Emerson	(Australia)
11	Bjorn Borg	(Sweden)

summers I ever saw,” Nadal said. “People saw why he is already number four in the world.”

On a knife’s edge at 5-5 in the fifth set, Medvedev reeled off eight of the last nine points to force a fourth, breaking Nadal in the 12th game with a backhand winner.

Nadal was broken in the 10th game of the fourth set to force a fifth when Medvedev blasted a sterling backhand return winner.

Nadal rescued three Medvedev break chances to hold in the second game of the fifth set, fired a backhand volley winner to break Medvedev in the fifth game and seized a 5-2 edge when Medvedev hit an overhead smash long.

Serving for the match, Nadal was broken when umpire Ali Nili issued Nadal a time violation for his first serve and the Spaniard sent his second long, the crowd booing Nili for his call.

Nadal squandered two break and match points in the ninth game as the drama intensified.

Again serving for the match, Nadal rescued a break point then hit a forehand drop volley for his third match point chance and Medvedev sent a forehand return long to end matters.

Nadal screamed and fell to the court on his back in joy and exhaustion.



A Bangladesh player tries to manoeuvre the ball into the Singapore half during their Women’s Junior AHF Cup fixture in Singapore yesterday.

PHOTO: BHF

# Losing start for women’s hockey team

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh started their AirAsia Women’s Junior (U-21) AHF Cup with a 3-0 defeat against hosts Singapore yesterday.

This was the first international at any level for any women’s hockey team from Bangladesh.

For a team which only started the game less than a year ago and had three months’ training prior to the tournament, Bangladesh began the game well, keeping the hosts at bay in the first two quarters. However, the resistance of Ritu Moni and Co broke down in the third quarter as

Bangladesh conceded the opening goal in the 40th minute before conceding the second five minutes later. The women in red and green conceded a third two minutes from time.

Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in their second match today, with Hong Kong, Taipei and Uzbekistan the other three sides of this second-tier women’s hockey competition of the continent. The champion and runners-up teams will join China, Japan, Korea, India, Malaysia and Thailand for Women’s Junior Asia Cup 2020.

# Joy of six for Spain, Italy

AFP, Paris

Spain and Italy moved to within touching distance of Euro 2020 on Sunday after respective wins over the Faroe Islands and Finland saw them maintain their perfect qualifying records for next year’s tournament.

Rodrigo and Paco Alcacer both scored twice in an easy 4-0 victory over the Faroes in Gijon, on a night when captain Sergio Ramos equalled Iker Casillas’ national appearances record with his 167th cap.

It was their sixth win from six in Group F and put them on a perfect 18 points, seven clear of Sweden, who drew 1-1 with

Scandinavian rivals Norway.

Italy also kept their 100 percent record thanks to Jorginho’s late penalty, which fired Italy their own sixth straight win, 2-1 at nearest rivals Finland.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho’s 79th-minute winner in Tampere sent Roberto Mancini’s side six points clear of the second-placed Finns in Group J, after inform Norwich City striker Teemu Pukki had levelled Ciro Immobile’s first Italy goal in two years with a penalty of his own six minutes before.

Four-time world champions Italy are flying high with a maximum 18 points with four qualifying games to play, nine points ahead of third-placed Armenia.

The Bangladesh team were given a warm welcome upon their return from Scotland yesterday, where the Tigresses retained the Women’s T20 World Cup Qualifiers title in Dundee last Saturday.

PHOTO: BCB

# Yasin, Mahedi make the cut

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced a 13-member squad for the first two matches of the Tri-nation T20 tournament, starting from September 13 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The BCB included a fresh face in right-arm medium pacer Yasin Arafat Mishu, who played for the Bangladesh High Performance (HP) team last month. Mahedi Hasan, who has played in only one T20I for the national team back in 2018 against Sri Lanka, also made the cut.

However, according to chief selector Minhajul Abedin, the likes of Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Rubel Hossain were dropped from the previous squad that played against West Indies in Dhaka last year.

**SQUAD**

Shakib Al Hasan (Captain), Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah, Riyad, Afif Hossain, Mosadddek Hossain, Sabbir Rahman, Tajjul Islam, Mahedi Hasan, Mohammad Saifuddin, Mustafizur Rahman, Yasin Arafatw.