

## Japan to ask athletes from Afghanistan, five countries for more COVID-19 tests

KABUL Japan plans to ask Olympic athletes from Afghanistan and five other countries to be tested for the highly infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus. Daily virus tests for seven days before leaving the country, as set to start on July 23 after a Japanese newspaper said on

Monday. Currently, all overseas athletes are being asked to have coronavirus tests before leaving the country for the Tokyo Olympics, which are set to start on July 23 after a Japanese newspaper said on

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Olympic Minister Tamano Maru said said of Tokyo's main media outlet, the Japanese Olympic team who tested positive for the coronavirus reported that the Delta variant, adding to concern the Games may trigger a new wave of infections. **The Kabul Times**



Joe Calzaghe reflects on climbing off canvas for first time to complete knockout win over Byron Mitchell in 2003

Joe Calzaghe's proud expression was in peril when he was floored for the first time, but a brutal assault with Byron Mitchell confirmed him as a true champion.

Calzaghe is best described as a Western champion in respect to his 46 professional record and is considered one of the greatest fighters of his generation. But on the day back in 2003, that unbeaten record he is so renowned for was almost shattered at the 15-0 stage against American slugger Mitchell.

The man from Newbridge had been a world champion for more than six years, although unfortunately his big fights were ending him.

That was a frustrating time in my career," Calzaghe told Sky Sports. "It was six years after I had won the title and I was striving to be world champion."

"He had just come off a split decision victory against Oscar Okeke. I knew it was going to be a tough fight because he was a big puncher. A proper American tough guy."

At the Cardiff Indoor Arena on June 28, 2003, the Irishman lost and started the fight strongly.

"The first round I was sleep-

ingly sharp. I remember being on top of him and I shook him a few times, I felt great against a guy who at that point had never been stopped."

"I went back to the corner and remember my dad (Tony) giving me a big kiss and saying 'That one's your round'. I was like, 'I know after rounds again?' As you know, I was never beaten down before. You cannot prepare yourself if you have never been on the floor before, the reaction comes from your instinct inside. My instinct was to get straight up."

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"The power of recovery dropped and went and finished his best desire and love of a manager, even then brought to the fore."

"I spun around and went down."

"I cannot bring at the age of nine and I never got dropped in 120 amateur fights. I had never been hit or dropped in sporting events. It was a professional fight and I was a professional. I had never tested the canvas."

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## Thorgan Hazard's stunning strike sends Roberto Martinez's side past holders and into Euro 2020 quarter-finals



A stunning strike from Thorgan Hazard sent Belgium's side past holders Portugal to set up a Euro 2020 quarter-final against Italy.

The sometimes ragged and surprised encounter in Sevilla, the youngest of the two league leaders in Belgium's starting line-up provided the game's only real moment of quality when he set up a goal for Belgium's side.

Belgium's side lacked their usual slickness in possession and Portugal was happy to make the ball around continuously as they wanted to keep the momentum of the game as a key factor in the campaign.

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## Johanna Konta forced to withdraw from Wimbledon after coronavirus contact



British No 1 Johanna Konta has been forced to withdraw from Wimbledon after going into self-isolation having been identified as a close contact of a member of that team who tested positive for coronavirus.

Konta, who had been due to start her tournament against Kristina Mladenovic on Tuesday, had been told she must isolate for 10 days.

The 30-year-old's withdrawal was confirmed in a release by the All England Club on Sunday evening.

The statement said: "A member of Johanna Konta's team attended with Covid-19 symptoms this morning, and immediately self-isolated in accordance with The Championships' testing protocols."

A positive result was returned which resulted in the A&EFC, together with Public Health England, identifying Johanna Konta as a close contact. In line with government guidelines, she is required to self-isolate for 10 days and therefore is withdrawing from The Championships.

Both Konta and her team member had tested negative on all four previous team-wide tests. Both individuals were advised of the positive test and close contact classification and were self-isolating for next 10 days.

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