

SPORT

The Paily Star

WICB chief executive and world

cup organiser Chris Dehring has

warned that time is running short for

reforms on hallowed but aging

arenas such as Barbados

Kensington Oval and Jamaica's

Premier Div kabadi

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Police earned comfortable wins against their respective rivals in the opening day matches of the eighth Premier Division Kabadi League at the court near the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday ..

Bangladesh Rifles smashed Bangladesh Navy 94-31 with seven lonas after leading the first half 52-10

Bangladesh Police beat Fire Service 75-33. The winners dominated the first session 30-13.

Vienna title goes to Suarez

AFP, Vienna

Argentine sixth seed Paola Suarez ousted Croatian qualifier Karolina Sprem in three sets to win her third career title at the 170.000-dollar (145,200 euro) WTA event here on Saturday.

Under blazing sunshine the 26year-old Suarez outlasted her 18-year-old opponent 7-6, 2-6, 6-4 in two hours 16 minutes.

The Argentine, better known as a doubles specialist, was technically superior and able to cope with the heat than her inexperienced young opponent, ranked 97th in the world Sprem had claimed the head of

Russian second seed Vera Zvonareva, en route to just her second career final. Suarez, whose previous two

titles were in Bogota in 1999 and 2001, takes home 27,000 dollars, with Sprem winning half that total

Becker goes to court in Sept

AFP, Munich

Three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker will appear in court here next September following the collapse of his internet company.

A court spokesman told next Monday's edition of Focus magazine that Becker himself had been ordered to appear before the court in September

Administrators of his internet company Sportgate are demanding 1.5 million euros damages and interest from the retired player who has not covered losses he had undertaken to in writing in June

Sportgate went bankrupt in June 2001.

Razzag's reminder

FROM PAGE 13 Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-82, 3-86, 4-134, 5-199, 6-199, 7-225 Did not bat: Whiley, Grove RW Bowler 0 Μ

10 0 Akhtar 44 Shabbi 0

Roddick sees Agassi off

Gilbert who used to look after

Agassi, was unconcerned by his

it past one of the great returners of

Roddick said: "It wasn't the most

convincing victory but against Andre

it's not going to be. I felt I played

pretty flawless tennis in the first set

but the third set I shouldn't have

don't expect him to miss two balls at

139 mph ace and after holding serve broke Agassi, who on Friday

dethroned Hewitt as world number

the end of the match.'

one, for a 2-0 lead,

"I was down a break and you

Roddick started the match with a

RD

all time, not to beat the clock."

"You try to serve with pace to get

Turning to the match overall

get around it."

service speed.

won

Tennis

AFP, London

Andy Roddick beat world number one Andre Agassi for the first time to book his place in the Queen's Club grasscourt final with a 6-1, 6-7, 7-6 win here Saturday. Roddick, according to the

courtside speed gun, delivered one serve at 149 mph (239.7 kph). If ratified that would equal the mark set by Britain's Greg Rusedski at Indian Wells in 1998 for the fastest recorded serve in professional

tennis history. He will now face Sebastien Grosjean in the final after the Frenchman beat Britain's Tim Henman - three times a Queen's finalist in the past four years - in straight sets.

Grosjean, who knocked out three-time defending champion Lleyton Hewitt on Friday, won 6-3, 6-

"I like grass," said Grosjean. "So I'm not surprised," he added after beating quadruple Wimbledon semi-finalist Henman "I won my first title on grass at

Nottingham in 2000. "But maybe Tim was not 100 rcent because of his shoulder," said Grosjean after Henman needed on-court treatment for a longstanding injury. Earlier an enthralling all-

American battle saw Roddick, at 20 thirteen years younger than Agassi, serve 27 aces. But Roddick 4-0 down against

Agassi in their previous meetings, also matched his opponent's groundstrokes and saved a match point as well. Afterwards former Wimbledon

champion Agassi said: "I was pretty fortunate to even have a shout of winning that match. The way he was serving and moving and the way I was hitting the ball, I deserved to lose that match.

Informed of Roddick's potentially record-equalling serve, Agassi asked reporters if he had returned it. Told he had, Agassi joked: 'Sounds like I got some sort of record there too.

Agassi added that while he expected the 150 mph service barrier to be broken, returners would still have a chance. Agassi at the Queen's Club yesterday.

Tim, Dwain showdown

AFP. London The world's fastest sprinter. Tim

Montgomery, is to go head to head with Britain's European champion Dwain Chambers for the first time since the American set the 100m

record of 9.78sec in Paris last year. Chambers finished second in REUTERS, Birmingham that race with a time of 9.87sec that 44 0 equalled Linford Christie's Russian qualifier Maria 1 European record. The two have not met since. Montgomery will also line up against former world junior champion Mark Lewis-Francis at an international meeting of the United States, Russia and Britain at Glasgow on June 29. The American is using the race as part of his build-up to the world championships in Paris in August, where he is aiming to win gold to add to the silver medal he won behind Maurice Greene two years ago in Edmonton. "I'm looking forward to the match, it's always a pleasure to run in Britain and to represent my country against world-class opposition," Montgomery said. Chambers, who is on the comeback trail after injury and a split from long-time coach Mike McFarlane. said he was looking forward to the chance to turn the tables on Montgomery.

"The good news is that you've He broke Agassi again in the still got to get it in. Like facing a sixth game, a backhand crosscourt baseball pitcher, there are ways to winner putting him 5-1 up before Roddick held for the set. Roddick, coached by Brad

He ended the second game of the second set with his recordequalling 149 mph serve. But with both players holding a tie-break ensued.

Roddick's forehand error then gave Agassi the tie break 7-5 and forced a deciding set on a sundrenched centre court. That went with serve until. at 2-2.

Agassi broke. But Roddick broke back in the next to make it 3-3. With the tie-break level at 5-5.

Roddick put a croscourt forehand wide to give Agassi match point. But Roddick saved it with a servicewinner.

Then an Agassi forehand into the net gave Roddick his first match point at 7-6 which the young American converted when Agass hit a forehand long.

Jones looks for August return

CRICINFO, London

Young England bowler Simon Jones suggested he could be back playing cricket in two months time as his recovery from a horrific knee injury continues to make good progress.

He had a major operation to rebuild his knee in Februarv after he tore the ligaments in the joint during that sickening tumble in Brisbane on the opening day of the 2002-03 Ashes series Talking in Cardiff after a brief

howl in the nets with his leg heavily strapped, Jones said: "Things are going well and I'm happy."

Reflecting on the injury, he said: "It was an absolute nightmare but it's all in the past and I am looking to the future. I've had a chat with the physio and the medical staff around here and maybe I could play again at the end of August." However, after such a serious

operation, an August return might be pushing it a bit, and Jones did as president. sensibly offer a note of caution: "If I'm not right I won't play, but I'll be looking to go to Australia for the winter tions for the 2007 World Cup have

Vitali vows to fight till last moment

AFP, Los Angeles

Former heavyweight champ Vitali Klitschko admitted he quit before he could get knocked out in his only loss, but he insists there will be repeat scene when he faces Lennox Lewis on June 21.

"It was right decision," said Klitschko on Thursday. "If you are injured and can't move and then lose by KO then it is too late to

quit with an injured tart the 10th round in 0 World Boxing title fight against Chris

ar-old Ukranian (32-1 s) is the number one contender for Lewis' World Boxing Council heavyweight title. The two will square off at Staples Center American Andy Roddick plays a forehand against compatriot Andre arena.

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Vaughan off

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WALES and easily claimed the first set. Croft c Gough b Giles But the unseeded Asagoe came Thomas run out Powell run out With both players failing to gain Maynard Ibw b Gough the upper hand in the deciding set, Hemp c Solanki b Giles

Dale bAli

WC preps their priority

Two-way battles for top WICB posts

lems in time

Trinidad's Piarco airport earned unwelcome publicity when Australia suffered significant baggage theft there last month

The current Sri Lankan touring side have also complained bitterly about the late arrival of team equipment on several different flights, causing the team to miss practice time

nominations for its two top posts on "What we have gone through so far at Barbados and at St Vincent is William Rodriguez, of Trinidad not a healthy sign for West Indies and Tobago, will contest the WICB cricket if they are to successfully presidency with Guyana's Chetram host the 2007 cricket World Cup, ingh, while current vice-president said Sri Lanka team manager Aiith Val Branks, of the Leeward Islands, Javasekera earlier this week. will face a challenge from the

Part of the problems stems from the fact that the island-hopping flights connecting much of the Caribbean offer limited space for passengers and baggage.

"The logistics of moving things around the Caribbean is something that has to be addressed right away," vice-presidential candidate Lennox John said.

"We will have to think of some form of transportation either by sea Recent tours by Australia and of special charter flights for players and their luggage, especially between the smaller islands."

The state of repair of some of the regions' most important cricket stadiums is another cause for concern.

Sabina Park. During a news conference before a recent one-day game with Australia in his native Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies skipper Brian Lara complained bitterly about the 'pathetic" state of the practice facilities at the Queen's Park Oval. However, all is not doom and gloom for the West Indies.

Leeward Island cricket administrators have led the way by investing heavily in the idea of sports tourism and new facilities there won praise from the Australian team.

Grenada was rewarded with its first Test match last year, in a drawn encounter with New Zealand, while St Lucia's Beausejour Stadium will obtain Test status when the West Indies take on Sri Lanka next week. The WICB elections will take

place at an annual general meeting in Roseau, Dominica, slated for July 12-13 Wes Hall, a 65-year old

Barbadian whose fast bowling terrorised batsmen in the 1960s. said a pre-existing medical condition had persuaded him to stand

Halle Open Federer's

REUTERS, Halle

special flavour.

Cricket

REUTERS, Kingstown

Saturday.

The build up to the 2007 World Cup

is expected to be the focal point of

campaigns as the West Indies

Cricket Board (WICB) announced

Windward Islands' Lennox John.

The ballots are being held in the

Apart from the usual range of

proposals for restoring the region's

lost cricketing dominance, prepara-

already given the WICB election a

now Sri Lanka have highlighted the

logistical challenges of staging a

World Cup in an extensive region of

independent island states, most of

whom lack financial resources, and

raised concerns about the West

Indies' ability to solve these prob-

wake of Wes Hall's decision on

Wednesday not to seek re-election

World number five Roger Federer warmed up for Wimbledon in ideal fashion when he crushed German Nicolas Kiefer 6-1, 6-3 in the Halle Open final on Sunday to win his first ATP grasscourt title

The top-seeded Swiss needed just 68 minutes to claim his fourth title of the year, putting him alongside an elite band of active players to have won on all four surfaces grass, clay, hard courts and indoors.

Having been beaten by Kiefer in the semifinals in Halle last year, Federer looked in the mood for revenge and he began in style, storming to a 5-0 lead as his opponent, perhaps suffering from nerves, struggled to find his best form.

Kiefer, runner-up to Yevgeny Kafelnikov in 2002, stopped the rot by holding serve in the sixth game but it was only a temporary reprieve as the Swiss served out for the set.

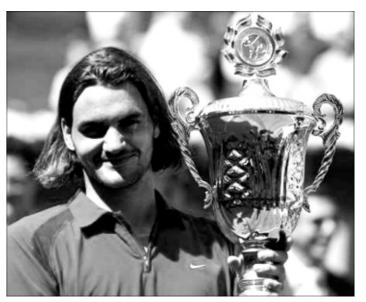


PHOTO: RELITERS Roger Federer of Switzerland holds the winner's trophy after beating German Nicolas Kiefer in the Halle Open final yesterday.

Tennis

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PHOTO: STAR

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"I am back right now. Everything

to show how good it is."

Sharapova sent FROM PAGE 13

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PHOTO: AFF

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Sharapova's impressive run at the Sharapova proved to be her undo-Edgbaston Open ended in the ing semifinals when she was beaten 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 by Shinobu Asagoe on

packing

Tennis

Saturday. The 16-year-old blonde, dubbed the new Anna Kournikova, kept the photographers busy as she walked on court with a determined look at the Edgbaston Priory Club but eventually ran out of steam against her Japanese opponent.

Asagoe will face third seed Magdalena Maleeva in the final. 'I will take away a lot of experi-

ence from this and a lot of confidence from beating some top names," said Sharapova, who claimed the scalps of top seed Elena Dementieva and Nathalie Dechy on her way to the last four.

"There are a lot of things I learned here and there about my game.

Playing her first WTA semi-final, Sharapova got off to a flying start as Asagoe struggled to control the Russian's powerful groundstrokes

Kasprowicz run out Harrison c Clarke b Anderson "I needed a little more energy at Jones not out the end," said Sharapova, who was Cosker c Vaughan b Ali given a wildcard for Wimbledon Extras: (b-2, lb-6, nb-9, w-10) Total: (All out in 48.4 overs) earlier this week. Bulgarian Maleeva battled past Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-35, 3-56, 4second seed Eleni Daniilidou of 138, 5-139, 6-165, 7-191, 8-203, 9-Greece 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 in the other 206 Daniilidou established a 3-0 lead Bowler

Andersor in the third set after winning nine games out of 10 but caved in as Gough Flintoff Maleeva displayed her fighting Ali qualities. Giles

charging back in the second.

two wild fore

semifinal

the contest headed into a tiebreak,

"I've been playing tennis long Vaughan enough to know that it's never ever Result: England won by eight runs. over till it's over," said a delighted Maleeva

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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QUHW F OHIRZW GZJOXHVHR JHE RGUZZX, M YHXMHNH QMXX UFNH YHHW UΗ MWEZGVZIMWFVHE Saturday's Cryptoquip: BY WORKING ON MY MASTER'S AS WELL AS MY DOCTORATE, I'M BEING KILLED BY DEGREES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

The Cryptoquip is a substitution clipter in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by thal and error.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurates the Shahjalal Bank Second Division Football League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. The league is the first event of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football League Committee's proposed calendar for this season.