



PHOTO: AFP

Spaniard Carlos Moya holds his country's national flag after beating Gaston Gaudio of Argentina in the Davis Cup semifinal on Sunday.

# Davis Cup Australia, Spain showdown

## Tennis

AFP, Malaga

Spain and Australia will meet in the Davis Cup final for the second time in four years as both scored 3-2 semifinal victories on Sunday.

The Spanish hero was Carlos Moya who kept his cool against Gaston Gaudio in the deciding match against Argentina to win in straight sets 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 following a shock defeat for World No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero.

For Australia, Lleyton Hewitt was the man that mattered coming back from the dead to defeat Wimbledon champion Roger Federer 5-7, 2-6, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, 6-1.

Australia, who lost in Barcelona in 2000, will start the November 28-30 final as favourites as they are expected to arrive to play on Melbourne grasscourts, the least favourite surface for the Spanish claycourt specialists.

Moya put Spain through with his second singles victory of the match.

It came as a great relief to a packed

home crowd who had been stunned to see Ferrero lose in straight sets 6-4, 7-5, 6-1 to journeyman Agustin Calleri in the first of the reverse singles to level the semi at 2-2.

Ferrero and Moya had won both the opening day singles Friday, but Calleri and Lucas Arnold kept the suspense going Saturday with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over Alex Corretja and Albert Costa.

Moya steadied the Spanish ship from the start comfortably winning the first set 6-1.

The second set was closer but once Moya had taken that there was no way back for Gaudio and he dropped his opening service game of the third set as the Spaniard sped to victory.

"I've always dreamed of a moment like this," said Moya

"I just played so well, so focused, It was incredible. This has done wonders for my confidence.

"The Australians will be out for revenge (for the 2000 Davis Cup final). We will not be the favourites, but we will go there and give our all."

Calleri, who was outstanding in the doubles, was brought into the singles action to replace Mariano Zabaleta after

being overlooked Friday in the opening singles.

Even so, the 27-year-old was given little chance of defeating Ferrero who rose to the top spot in the world this year by winning the French Open and reaching the US Open final.

"It's the biggest win of my career," said an emotional Calleri.

"To beat the world No 1, everything went right for me today.

"I think he was shattered when he lost those set points in the second set. Any player would have been affected. I was able to take advantage of that and stayed 100 per cent concentrated."

Spain will play in their fourth Davis Cup final and each time it has been against Australia. The Spaniards won in 2000, but lost in 1965 and 1967 when Manuel Santana was their kingpin.

A never-say-die Hewitt clawed back from two sets and 3-5 down against Federer to render the final reverse singles meaningless.

Switzerland's Michel Kratochvil won the dead final singles rubber when Todd Woodbridge, a replacement for Mark Philippoussis, retired after the Swiss player won the opening set 6-4.

Australia won the tie 3-2.

Federer dazzled Hewitt in the opening two and a half sets, but his torrid schedule of three matches in as many days began to tell and the leg-weary former Wimbledon and US Open champion embarked on a courageous fightback to pull back from the brink.

Hewitt's exhilarating victory halted Federer's unbeaten run of 10 singles matches in Davis Cup and 31 winning sets and ended Switzerland's dream of a first-ever Cup title after reaching the final against the United States in 1992.

It was Hewitt's eighth win in 10 encounters with Federer, the world number three, and puts his Davis Cup singles record to 22-5.

"This beats the hell out of winning the US Open and Wimbledon, I tell you right now," Hewitt told the crowd moments after his euphoric victory.

"It's an incredible feeling, I've dreamt of playing these matches ... I watched Pat Cash against (Sweden's) Mikael Pernfors over at Kooyong (in 1986) come back after being two sets to love down.

## Sachin, Murali top ODI stars

REUTERS, London

Latest PriceWaterhouseCoopers one-day international cricket ratings after the Pakistan and Bangladesh series which ended on Sunday:

BATSMAN	POINTS
S Tendulkar	773
R Ponting	763
B Lara	745
M Bevan	743
C Gayle	735
A Gilchrist	727
Y Youhana	726
M Trescottick	724
M Hayden	718
J Kallis	716
BOWLER	POINTS
M Muralitharan	893
S Pollock	883
G McGrath	871
B Lee	807
C Vaas	805
M Ntini	805
J Gillespie	804
S Bond	756
Z Khan	742
H Singh	728
A Flintoff	728

## Second gold for Sun

AFP, Manila

Distance runner Sun Yingjie struck gold for the second time as China left the rest of the field flailing at the Asian athletics championships here Monday.

The 24-year-old from Beijing, who is plotting to supplant her friend Wang Junxia as the best middle distance runner China has ever produced, picked up from her 10,000-meter win on Saturday to capture the women's 5,000-meter title.

## Frankly speaking

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guys like Rajin are around."

The inspirational coach was looking forward to unearth some new talents of pedigree with the home series against England just around the corner.

"I will definitely give a long look into the under-19's training and their practice matches against England. That will be very interesting thing to watch. Some of the youngsters should get out there and play well against good opposition," said the Bangladesh coach.

The mentor of Sri Lanka's World Cup triumph conceded that his Bangladesh assignment could be a bumpy ride but believed that his two-year contract was adequate enough to mould the fledgling cricket nation into a force to reckon with.

"We came very close to winning on two occasions but still we haven't crossed that barrier. I know this is just the start of my two-year term with the Bangladesh Cricket Board and there is a lot of water to flow under the bridge yet. But it doesn't ease the frustration. That's the way it is.

"I understand how important it is for the people of Bangladesh to have something to feel good about and the national team winning matches can give just that. I'm painfully aware of it and I think and hope that we have given them some causes to be optimistic in the near future about this team starting to convert hard work into victories."

Whatmore declined to make any comment on his under-pressure captain Khaled Mahmud but suggested that Bangladesh should pick a team first and then select a captain from the announced squad.

"I'm not sure about the present policy of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). But if you ask my opinion, I would always prefer to pick the captain from a selected team," he added. The BCB at present follows the policy of fixing the captain first before naming the rest of the squad.

Whatmore's team will fly home on Wednesday morning.

## Performance

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Cup in April.

"If you look back at our tour of Australia the improvement graph has gone up and I hope that players cash in on the experiences earned in Australia and Pakistan in our home series against England."

England will play two Tests and three one-day games in Bangladesh next month.

Mahmud pinpointed batsman Rajin Saleh as Bangladesh's best player of the tour saying he had adopted well to both Test and one-day cricket. "Rajin Saleh is the find of the Pakistan tour."

There was praise from Pakistan's coach Javed Miandad, who said the visitors performed beyond expectations.

"Bangladesh was not the team we were expecting, they did not allow us to win easily," said Miandad.

"The way they have played here I think they will create a lot of problems for England."

Pakistan skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq praised the spirit of the Bangladesh team.

"I think in some of the matches they really made us fight hard for a win," he said. "They have shown definite improvement on this tour."

# Sun shines for China



AFP, Los Angeles

Sun Wen, the Golden Ball winner and leading scorer of the 1999 Women's World Cup, picked up where she left off, scoring the lone goal in China's 1-0 Group D victory over Ghana on Sunday night.

After taking a throw-in on the left side, Bai Jie raced quickly toward the goal line and sent a cross to the far post. As goalkeeper Memunatu Sulemana jumped, the ball sailed beyond her reach and a leaping Sun headed the ball home in the 29th minute.

China, who finished second to the United States four years ago, made sure the goal stood up behind a rock solid defense and goalkeeper Zhao Yan.

Sun, who has said she will retiring from football after the Cup, also produced a key defensive play, blocking Alberta Sackey's free kick with her face in the 57th minute. Sun fell to the ground and laid motionless before quickly getting up and resuming play before a crowd of 10,027 at the Home Depot Center in the Los Angeles suburb of Carson.

China had hoped to be opening their 2003 campaign in front of home

fans. But the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) prompted FIFA to move the tournament to the United States.

Instead China will host the 2007 Cup.

In the first game of the Carson doubleheader, Elena Fomina made up for missing a penalty, connecting for the winning goal in the 89th minute to boost Russia to a 2-1 Group D triumph over Australia in a game that could go a long way to determine which country reaches the quarter-finals.

Formina took a penalty kick in the 71st minute that she rattled off the crossbar. She had an opportunity to atone for her mistake as time was running out in regulation, firing home a Galina Komarova feed from 20 yards past a diving goalkeeper Cassandra Kell.

Australia, which has never won a World Cup match, had taken a 1-0 edge as Kelly Golebiowski converted a rebound of Danielle Small's shot in the 37th minute.

The Russians, however, equalized a minute later on an own goal by Australian defender Dianne Alagich. Russian defender Marian Saenko took a free kick that deflected off the right shin of Alagich past Kell.

In Washington, the United States opened their bid for a third Women's World Cup title with a 3-1 win over Sweden in Group A.

Mia Hamm, well-known for her scoring abilities, turned playmaker, setting up all three goals for the defending champions.

Hamm sent Kristine Lilly the final pass for the first goal of the match in the 27th minute. She added a pair of corner

kicks that were converted via headers by Cindy Parlow in the 36th minute and Shannon Boxx in the 78th minute. Boxx, a defensive midfielder, became the first US player to score in her first three international matches.

Victoria Svensson closed scored Sweden's lone goal in the 58th minute.

But the hosts suffered a severe blow when central defender Brandi Chastain, who scored the game-winning penalty in the shoot-out in the 1999 final, broke a bone in her right foot. Chastain will miss at least the rest of the opening round and could be sidelined longer. She suffered the injury in the first half and was replaced at halftime by newcomer Cat Reddick.

In the second game of the double-header in Washington, Brazil joined Norway atop the Group B table, shutting down World Cup newcomers South Korea 3-0.

Katia, who had a benign tumor removed weeks before the start of the tournament, scored twice within a seven-minute span in the second half to put the game away. Katia beat goalkeeper Kim Jung-Mi in the 55th and 62nd minutes.

Marta converted a penalty in the 14th minute following a Korean handball.

After two off days, the tournament resumes with four matches on Wednesday. In Group B action in Washington, Norway gave Brazil in a match that could well decide the outcome of the group, and France meet South Korea.

In Group C play in Columbus, Ohio, group leader Germany take on Japan and Canada play Argentina.

## SA to discuss revival of Pak tour

AFP, Johannesburg

South African cricket bosses will meet in Johannesburg Tuesday to discuss reviving the cancelled tour to Pakistan, the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa said Monday.

The UCB said its chief executive, Gerald Majola, has received a letter from his counterpart at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Rameez Raja, offering alternative fixtures.

"Gerald Majola is to convene a meeting of the management committee of UCB in Johannesburg on Tuesday to discuss the PCB proposal and to receive a full briefing from security consultants," the UCB said in a statement.

The Proteas called off their tour to Pakistan on Saturday after a bomb blast in an empty Karachi office building on Friday night. No one was injured in the explosion.

The decision to call off the tour was made one day before the South African team were due to depart for a three-match one-day series and three Test series.

The UCB offered to either play the series outside Pakistan or delay the tour until security improved.

The PCB has refused to play the series away from home.

Its new fixtures exclude Karachi and have the option of excluding Peshawar. The UCB committee will consult with the South African government, national coach Eric Simons and captain Graeme Smith before a final decision is made.

"We made a decision on Saturday, based on information from our security consultants who had also been in contact with intelligence agencies," Majola added.

## PCB threatens

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to the tour.

Zia also raised the mugging of two Pakistani cricketers in Johannesburg during a tour in 1998. That tour continued.

"The crime rate in Johannesburg is far more than anywhere else but teams visit South Africa regularly," he said, adding the Pakistani government had assured top level security to visiting teams.

PCB chief executive Rameez Raja said South African referee Mike Procter, who has been in Pakistan for the past five weeks for the Pakistan-Bangladesh series, had promised to help revive the tour.

"I have talked to Procter who has promised to talk to cricketer officials in South Africa to convince them for a rescheduled tour," Raja told reporters Sunday.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Players of Bangladesh Rifles receive the champions' trophy of Pepsi national handball from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (2nd from L) yesterday.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	Authoritative orders	DOWN	24	Thorpe or Carrey
1	Makes a decision	38	Sci-fi knights	2	Incubator noise
5	Journal	39	— Aviv	3	Flend
8	Lend, slangily	40	Pair	4	Parsley pieces
12	Profound	42	Fur	5	Unlikely winner
13	Bob of CBS	45	Use wraps	6	Mined find
14	Ocean motion	49	Moth	7	Wax
15	Cherished	50	Past	8	Surveyor's rod
16	Ultra-modernist	52	Concept	9	Maine emblem
17	In due time	53	With skill	10	Skunk's defense
18	Pogo slick part	54	Debtor's letters	11	Sawbucks
20	Waterproof wear	55	Hill	19	Greek consonant
22	Astronaut	57	Spanish	21	Whatever amount
23	Little louse	58	Pholog's choice		
24	Big fish story				
27	Sailboat ropes				
32	Mrs. McKinley				
33	Sch. named for an evangelist				
34	Corn spike				

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## CRYPTOQUIP

I I I M M G L V S X G U B O W S I A O

K O F D G Y S M U V S X Y K G A G K B

H P K K G U L P A Q W G G F :

"A Q G W F G L K O D S S M."

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: WHEN OUR ICE-CREAM SHOP WAS ROBBED, NUMEROUS REPORTERS TRIED TO GET THE BIG SCOOP.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: K equals L

The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher 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 trial and error.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Members of the West End High School, who became champions in the second national school taekwondo competition, receive the trophy from State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman yesterday.