

## Sport

## Kafelnikov new 'king of clay'

Sports Reporter

Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov clinched his maiden Grand Slam title beating German Michael Stich 7-6, 7-5, 7-6 in the final of the French Open at Roland Garros, according to a BBC sports bulletin monitored here last night.

Earlier, the Russian world number-seven joined forces with Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic to beat the experienced fifth seeds Guy Forget of France and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 6-2, 6-3.

## TODAY'S EURO '96 FIXTURES

Netherlands vs Scotland (Group A)  
Venue: Villa Park, Birmingham  
Time: 9:30 pm (BST)  
Romania vs France (Group B)  
Venue: St James Park, Newcastle  
Time: 12:30 am (BST)  
Note: All times are Bangladesh Standard Time.



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov (L) and his Czech partner Daniel Vacek exult with the French Open men's doubles trophy after dismissing Guy Forget and Jakob Hlasek 6-2, 6-3 in the final in Paris on June 8. — AFP/UNB photo

## FRENCH OPEN NOTEBOOK

PARIS, June 9 (AP) : French Open women's champion Steffi Graf struggled with her acceptance speech Saturday after being handed her trophy by the French minister of the French Language, Margie Sudres.

"I wanted to speak in French, but I'm quite nervous right now," she said. "So I'm going to try to say thanks. That means a lot to me."

She thought for a second, then said: "I forgot it." But she plunged ahead, after the crowd lauded her.

"Je vous remercier le public pour l'encouragement qu'il m'a donné pendant mes quatorze dernières années," she said, thanking the crowd for its support in the 14 years since she began playing at the tournament.

The crowd cheered. "This morning it was better," she apologized.

Jim Courier won the hearts of French fans by doing his ac-

## Dariusz wins

COLOGNE, Germany, June 9: Unbeaten Dariusz Michalczewski Saturday won a one-sided decision over France's Christophe Girard to retain his WBO light heavyweight title, reports AP.

But Girard gave the Polish-born fighter, who now resides in Germany and is unbeaten in 31 fights, more trouble than the one-sided score indicated.

Some of the 7,000 fans in attendance booed when the scoring of 117-112, 117-11 and 117-112 was announced in favor of Michalczewski.

Girard was able to land combinations in flourishes against the hard-hitting Michalczewski, who had stopped 26 of his 30 opponents early.

Michalczewski, making his sixth title defense, tried to nail the Frenchman with his left hook throughout the fight. The punch had led to 10 second-round knockouts in his career.

But the German only once tagged Girard hard with the punch, forcing the Frenchman to hang on to finish the round after he was staggered late in the 10th.

Michalczewski, 28, had been a heavy favorite against Girard, the WBO's No. 6-ranked challenger who has just seven knockouts in his career.

Michalczewski weighed 79.2 kilos (174 pounds) for the fight, while Girard was at 78.7 kilos (173 pounds).

Michalczewski explained his poor performance afterwards by saying he was looking past Girard to his upcoming bout against Graciano Rocchigiani, a former world champion who is popular in Germany.

"I tried to stop thinking about the fight against Rocchigiani, but I'm only human. It was on my mind," said Michalczewski.

Both fighters threw punches non-stop during the fight.

and, you know, the factor of Voltaire when he won the title in 1991 and '92.

**TAKING SIDES:** While Graf thanked the crowd for cheering her on in the tough moments of the match, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario tried not to get too upset about getting less support from the fans.

"I didn't expect it to be that way," she said later. "But even if they were not with me, I always still love them, because I think I always have great matches here."

"I think I proved to myself a lot of things, and I am very happy about it," she said. "The rest is not my problem."

**LUCKY HOW MANY TIMES** ? Known for her reference to "luck", or lack of it, in her matches, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario made heavy use of the word after losing the French Open final to Steffi Graf.

She used variations of the word six times during her post-match news conference.

"I think that she was more lucky at the important points," Sanchez-Vicario said of Graf. "I was more unlucky on the specific points and I just have to congratulate her."

"We both played our best game and it came to the points that she was probably a little bit more lucky at the important points," she said. "I just think that it was very close."

Muster's only victory in a grass-court match came in Australia's Davis Cup against South Africa in Johannesburg in February. Muster beat Marcos Ondruska in straight sets.

The tournament, the main warmup for Wimbledon, seeds players based on their world ranking.

Pete Sampras, ranked No. 1 and three-time defending champion at Wimbledon, pulled out of Queens after losing to Yevgeny Kafelnikov in Friday's French Open semifinals.

With Sampras absent, Muster automatically takes over the top seeding since he is ranked No. 2 in the world.

The Austrian's ranking is based mostly on his clay-court success, which includes 16 clay titles over the past year-and-a-half.

Muster has lost in the first round at Wimbledon in his only four appearances. He skipped Wimbledon last year, but said he wants to prove himself on grass this year.

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In the day's other final, Patricia Tarabini and Javier Frana of Argentina won the mixed-doubles crown by beating Nicole Arendt and Luke Jensen of the United States 6-2, 6-2.

The junior men's doubles final saw a home victory when Sébastien Grosjean and Livier Mutis of France saw off Germany's Jan-Ralf Brandt and Daniel Elsner 6-2, 6-3 - while the junior women's doubles was won by Italians Alice Caputa and Giulia Casoni.

They beat Russia's Anna Kournikova and Ludmilla Varnuzova of San Marino 6-2, 5-7, 7-5.

## Euro '96 roundup

Sports Reporter

1994 World Cup sensation Bulgaria, began their Euro '96 campaign with a 1-1 draw against Spain in a vital Group B encounter at Leeds United's Elland Road ground, according to a BBC sports bulletin monitored here last night.

Prolific marksman Hristo Stoichkov put his side ahead with a penalty. The Spaniards responded through Barjuan Sergi's free-kick that took a wicked deflection leaving goalkeeper Dimitar Popov stranded.

At Old Trafford, pre-tournament favourites Germany led the Czech Republic 2-0 with the final whistle only minutes away in their Group C opener.

The Group D match between holders Denmark and Portugal was yet to kick-off.

## French Open

## Martin, Mauresmo Jr singles champs

PARIS, June 9: Alberto Martin of Spain won the junior men's singles title at the French Open here on Sunday when he defeated Sweden's Björn Rehnquist 6-3, 7-6(7/4) in the final, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old Martin, who comes from Barcelona and who is coached by Alvaro Martínez, is the third Spaniard to win the junior crown here in the last three years - Roberto Carretero winning in 1993 and Jacobo Diaz twelve months later.

Argentina's Mariano Zabaleta was the 1995 champion.

Amelie Mauresmo, who will be 17 next month, won the junior women's singles title when she beat Meghan Shaughnessy of the United States 6-0, 6-4.

It is the second year a French player has won the event. Last year Amelie Cochetto trumped.

Mauresmo was given a wild-card to play in the senior event and last week defeated Beate Reinsdorfer of Austria in three sets in the first round before going down in another three-set marathon to eighth seed Brenda Schultz-MaCarthy of the Netherlands.

A quarter-finalist in the junior event at the Australian Open, Mauresmo's progress through the junior draw was far from straight-forward. She had to play tough three-set matches to eliminate Katalin Marosi of Hungary in the second-round, went the distance against Lila Osterloh in the third and had to come back after dropping the first set 6-1 to beat Patty Schnyder of Switzerland in the quarter-finals.

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## Spain sweep series

PIETERMARITZBURG.

June 9: Spain clinched their three-match series against South Africa with a 2-1 win in the second men's hockey international on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Spain, who won the first Test in the series 4-1 on Friday, were typically quick on the break from defence and opened up a 2-0 lead after 41 minutes with goals from strikers Pol Amat and Xamier Escale.

A much-improved South Africa reduced the deficit to 2-1 in the 45th minute through Shaun Cook and then pressed hard for the equalizer.

Their best chance came in the 52nd minute when Spanish goalkeeper Ramon Jufresa produced a magnificent save, parrying away a full-blooded short corner strike which was heading for the top right-hand corner.

The two sides meet in the third and final international in Pietermaritzburg today.

## Concerned coach

GELING, June 9: The coach of Chinese world record holder Wang Junxia has called for a halt to public pressure on the distance runner ahead of the Atlanta Olympics, China's Sports Daily said today, reports Reuters.

Wang, who ran the year's fastest times in the 10,000 and 5,000 metres in trials last month in Nanjing, qualified easily for the Olympics and has raised national hopes of a gold medal, the newspaper said.

But her coach, Mao Dezheng, played down her achievements, saying the results of the Nanjing trials were attributable in part to familiar weather and terrain and a home audience.

It was an astonishing miss and served only to emphasise the feeling that this was going to be England's day.

But with the sun blazing down on a packed Wembley, England in particular and the match as a whole seemed to wilt in the heat in the second half.

Sforza and Johann Vogel kept England's defence busy with their industry and creation, while England only fitfully troubled the Swiss.



KEEP ON SMILING GIRL! Holding high the champions trophy German ace Steffi Graf doesn't hide her happiness after overcoming Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final of the French Open at the Roland Garros in Paris on June 8. — AFP/UNB photo

almost scored when Gary Neville unleashed a powerful 25-metre drive that Pascolo did well to stop with an instinctive save.

England's nerves were calmed a minute later when Shearer blasted home his first goal for his country since September 1994 after Ince carved open the Swiss defence.

Switzerland should have equalised four minutes before the interval when Grassi contrived to smash the ball against the bar from three metres out and an open goal at his mercy.

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First, Turkyilmaz outpaced skipper Tony Adams but was thwarted by Gary Neville and Gareth Southgate and then the influential Ciriaco Sforza swept the ball high over the bar from a corner.

After 22 minutes England

almost scored when Gary Neville unleashed a powerful 25-metre drive that Pascolo did well to stop with an instinctive save.

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The Euro '96 theme song "we're in this together" was



Kubilay Turkyilmaz goes celebrating after sending England custodian David Seaman the wrong way to score the Swiss equaliser during the Euro '96 opener at Wembley on June 8. The match ended 1-1. — AFP/UNB photo

## Frenchmen ready to roll



EURO '96

NEWCASTLE, England, June 9: Alberto Martin of Spain won the junior men's singles title at the French Open here on Sunday when he defeated Sweden's Björn Rehnquist 6-3, 7-6(7/4) in the final, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old Martin, who comes from Barcelona and who is coached by Alvaro Martínez, is the third Spaniard to win the junior crown here in the last three years - Roberto Carretero winning in 1993 and Jacobo Diaz twelve months later.

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It is the second year a French player has won the event. Last year Amelie Cochetto trumped.

First, Djorkaeff, a lean and athletic forward, is expected to lead in the France's new spirit and their quest for a top spot in the Group B and his team's main goal: a European title to go with the one he won in 1994.

Mauresmo was given a wild-card to play in the senior event and last week defeated Beate Reinsdorfer of Austria in three sets in the first round before going down in another three-set marathon to eighth seed Brenda Schultz-MaCarthy of the Netherlands.

American Djorkaeff and Zidane are among them," said Jacquet. "We're seeing a change of generations, that's clear."

France's starting formation against Romania at St. James Park in Newcastle will be four defenders, led by aggressive anchor Marcel Desailly, in front of whom are three playmakers, Didier Deschamps of Juventus, Christian Karembeu of Sampdoria and Vincent Guerin of Paris St. Germain.

Djorkaeff, who recently moved from St. Germain to Inter in Italy, and Zidane are expected to create the chances for each other and their teammates.

We have a powerful team. That's not the question. But Romanians are dangerous and hard to beat, as they have shown at the last World Cup," said Jacquet.

Romania and France played in the same qualification group for the Euro '96. France beat Romania 3-1 in France and tied 0-0 in Romania. But the Romanians ended up at the top of the standings.

As at the World Cup when they reached the quarter-finals, Romanians are led by skillful 31-year-old midfielder Gheorghe Hagi, who had a mediocre last season in Barcelona.

It was much the same for him before the World Cup when he played club soccer in Italy. But in the US he shone and was proclaimed one of the best players at the tournament.

Helping Djorkaeff in what is expected to be France's new deadly offense will Bordeaux's flashy midfielder Zinedine Zidane.

"We're going to see the appearance of great new players," said national coach, Aimé Jacquet, explaining his

team's major test, he added.