



State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (C) inaugurates the Dhaka Zonal round of the Standard Chartered 22nd National Schools Cricket Competition at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Federer on song

Australian Open
AFP/REUTERS, Melbourne

World number two Roger Federer sent a defiant message to rivals at the Australian Open Tuesday by blowing past his first round opponent and showing he can compete in a Grand Slam event even without a coach.

Federer, who dropped his long-time Swedish coach Peter Lundgren in December and has yet to find a replacement, took just 90 minutes to dispatch 117th-ranked American qualifier Alex Bogomolov 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

While his convincing game drew few questions in the post-match press conference, Federer was peppered with queries about his decision to come to Melbourne without a coach.

"I know it's difficult to start the season without a coach, but that was my decision," he said, adding that proposals from would-be replacements as coach were already coming in.

Playing in tricky winds, high humidity and temperatures that reached 36.5 degrees centigrade (98 Fahrenheit), Federer was joined by third seed Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, Argentine eighth seed David Nalbandian and Australia's Lleyton Hewitt in advancing to the Open's second round.

Venus Williams also made a triumphant if rusty return to tournament play after a six-month break by overpowering fellow American Ashley Harkleroad 6-2, 6-1 in a 51-minute, Center-Court romp.

Williams, a former world number one playing competitively for the first time since losing the Wimbledon singles final to sister Serena in July, overpowered her

opponent, but with some weakness in form. She notably struggled to find fluency in her service game despite managing to uncork some typically ferocious ground-strokes in her defeat of Harkleroad.

The 23-year-old missed much of last season with a nagging abdominal injury and then saw her professional problems overwhelmed by family tragedy when half-sister Yetunde was murdered in Los Angeles in September.

Nevertheless, Williams declared herself pleased with her performance.

"It's a little bit sentimental, but during the match I was really very focused on my performance," Williams said. "Afterwards it was really just a breath of fresh air like, 'Oh yes, I'm back now,'" Williams said.

Williams now plays Russia's Vera Douchevina in the next round.

The ankle injury that threatened to force second seed Kim Clijsters out of the opening Grand Slam of the year came through the test with flying colours in the night session. All she had to overcome was a little rustiness to advance 6-3, 6-2 over Marlene Weingaertner.

"I didn't really have any problems with the ankle and that's the most important thing," she said.

Nalbandian, 22, confirmed his position as a dark horse after he defeated defending champ Andre Agassi in last week's Kooyong Classic here by scoring an emphatic 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Brazil's Ricardo Mello.

Nalbandian, a runner-up to Hewitt at Wimbledon two years ago, brushed aside a nagging wrist injury that hampered his season last year and put a question-mark over his trade-mark baseline power.

Hewitt, the former world number one and bidding to become the first Australian to capture the local Grand Slam in 28 years, was decisively winning 6-2, 6-4, 0-1 when US opponent Cecil Mamiit retired with a hurt ankle.

It was the third match a row Hewitt has won by default after Carlos Moya and Martin Verkerk retired hurt in the final and semi-final of last week's Sydney International.

"It's never a way you want to win a match. But I've got to go out there and try and focus on what I've got to do," Hewitt said afterwards.

Less fortunate, Briton Greg Rusedski found no respite from the doping controversy surrounding him in recent weeks as he was emphatically drubbed out of the season's first Grand Slam 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 by Spaniard Albert Costa.

Rusedski blamed the loss on a stomach bug caught in Sydney last week and which restricted him to just 30 minutes practice before his game.

World number five Guillermo Coria slipped up 7-6, 6-2, 6-4 to Frenchman Cyril Saulnier. The Argentine had pulled out of last week's Auckland Open with an abdominal strain.

He was later cleared to play in Melbourne but was far from his best against the world number 76.

"I had a great result at Wimbledon when I beat Xavier Malisse, but today is something else," said Saulnier.

"Days like this is why we play. I am like a wine that improves with age."

2003 French Open winner Ferrero did not hang about, pounding fellow Spaniard Albert Montanes 6-0, 6-1, 6-1 for a resounding victory.

He was followed through by British 11th seed Tim Henman who ousted France's Jean-Rene Lisnard 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Victoria match rescheduled

AFP, Melbourne

The Sheffield Shield cricket match between Victoria and South Australia this weekend has been rescheduled following the death of Victorian coach and former Test star David Hookes.

Cricket Australia said Tuesday the match would be played from February 8 to 11 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Hookes died Monday from injuries sustained when he was allegedly bashed outside a Melbourne pub.

Victorian and South Australian cricketers and officials were with Hookes late Sunday when the incident occurred.

"We have agreed to the request after consultation with everyone involved," a Cricket Australia spokesman said on Tuesday.

Roy bites

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South Korea's Hyung Joon Lim and Sanam Singh of India filled the other two quarterfinal slots.

Meanwhile, on the distaff side top seed Madura Ranganathan led an all-Indian domination.

Madura, winner of the Rajshahi title, defeated compatriot Gayatri Krishnan 6-0, 6-3.

Murali Vandana won the battle of compatriots against V Poojashree 7-6, 6-3. Gangotri Sandri recorded a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Ting Yu Lin while Kaartiki Bhat recorded a 6-0, 4-6, 6-2 success against Slovakian Slaker.

Another Indian girl Punom Reddy beat Chi Hui Huang of Chinese Taipei 6-4, 6-4 and South Korea's Jung Yoon Shin won her second round clash against K Kanykey of Kazakhstan.

Black cloud

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While their supporters were letting their anger out in the open, Mohammedan officials vowed not to take any further part in the championship unless the DMFLC reconsidered their appeal of disallowing the goal.

In a letter to the DMFLC, the club demanded that the authorities go through the video footages of that controversial moment and decide whether the goal was legitimate or not. The club also appealed for exemplary punishment for Ghosh because of his 'biased' decision. The club requested DMFLC to re-start the match from where it was stopped. The letter signed by the Motijheel giants' general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, also warned that the club will not be responsible for any untoward situation that may arise if the DMFLC failed to reconsider the disciplinary measures taken against it.

Moratti's stunning step-down

Facchetti new Inter president

Football
AFP, Milan

Former Italy and Inter full-back Giacinto Facchetti has taken over from Massimo Moratti as president of Serie A giants Inter Milan.

Moratti, 58, resigned on Monday, a day after a humiliating 1-0 home defeat by relegation-threatened Empoli.

"He's the right man in the right place," Moratti said of Facchetti who had been one of the club's vice-presidents.

"It's not a drama, it's a decision that allows me to take a step back, which allows me to see things better, and nothing else."

"Hopefully this can kick-start a positive reaction throughout the whole club."

Moratti confirmed he had not relinquished ownership of the club.

On Sunday, and not for the first

time, many Inter fans unfurled banners demanding the president's resignation, but Moratti insisted the supporters' reaction was not the reason behind his departure.

"This step has nothing to do with what happened on Sunday," he said. "I only saw one banner and that wasn't terrible."

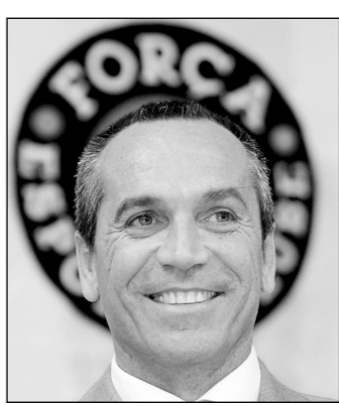
However, former Inter star Ronaldo, who left the club in August 2002 to join Spanish giants Real Madrid, believes the fans eventually got to Moratti.

"He will be disappointed because Inter have struggled to get the results that a squad like that deserve," the Brazilian told the Gazzetta dello Sport.

"But I believe that the problem is something else. I believe the fans' protests hurt him and made him give in. The protests on Sunday were not the first."

Inter's Turkish midfielder Emre Belozoglu, sent-off in Sunday's

match, said the players had to take responsibility for the club's alarming dip in form which has seen them go from title contenders to



MASSIMO MORATTI

also-rans. "He's given everything to this club and put in money that has enabled us to build a competitive

squad," he said. "He deserved so much but he has given him nothing. I hope he reconsiders his decision."

Moratti has spent 600 million euros, bought 103 players and employed 10 coaches since he took over in 1995, but it has failed to yield the Scudetto - last won in the 1988/89 season - despite having lured players of the calibre of Ronaldo and Christian Vieri to the club.

Ronaldo was still at the club when they won the only trophy during Moratti's reign, the 1998 UEFA Cup in which they beat domestic rivals Lazio 3-0.

Their best chance of the title was in the 2001/02 season when they went into the final day of the season leading the championship but defeat by Lazio handed the title to Juventus and AS Roma also overtook them for second.

The defeat by Empoli on Sunday left Inter trailing leaders Roma by 11 points with half the season gone.

Schools cricket

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the Dhanmondi Club ground, Maple Leaf crushed Cephalon International School by 118 runs at the Uttara Friends Club ground and University Laboratory registered a five-wicket victory over BC SIR High School.

In the morning, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman inaugurated the meet.

Tournament Committee Chairman Shah Nurul Kabir Shahin, Bangladesh Cricket Board's CEO Maqbul Hossain Dudhia, tournament committee member-secretary Adnan Rahman Dipon and sponsors' representative Badrul Ahsan were also present.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MOTIJHEEL IDEAL SCHOOL: 216-5 in 35 overs (Refat 69, Nadim 43, Anisur 41; Fahmid 1-35, Maruf 1-40).

LORETTO: 220-8 in 34.5 overs (Tarun 40 n.o., Fahmid 30; Prosenghit 2-11 and Shihab 2-45). Result: Loreto won by two wickets.

MAPLE LEAF: 268-2 in 30 overs (Adnan Sarwar 139 n.o., Adnan 38, Rewan 36; Ovi 1-30).

CEPHALON INTL: 87-10 in 16.3 overs (Rezaul 17, Nafis 13; Ovic 3/3, Adnan Sarwar 2/17). Result: Maple Leaf won by 118 runs.

BCSIR HIGH: 127 in 28 overs (Rashid 15, Russell 14; Ashok 4-20, Razib 2-10).

UNI LAB: 128-5 in 19 overs (Hasan 46, Razib 18; Zia 3-35). Result: University Laboratory won by five-wickets.

SA take series 3-0

FROM PAGE 13

Smith tried an extravagant drive against Ntini and was bowled between bat and pad. He was Ntini's 29th victim of the series, equalling Pollock's record for most wickets in a series against the West Indies, set in a five-Test contest in 1998-99.

Pollock took both wickets after lunch, having Vasbert Drakes caught at gully and then trapping Ridley Jacobs leg before.

Tail-ender Mervyn Dillon took an aggressive approach and hit 29 with some bold strokes before he was caught at first slip off Pollock. Collymore and Edwards also attacked and Edwards slammed Pollock for six over midwicket before he was yorked by Andre Nel.

SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the fourth and final Test between South Africa and the West Indies at Centurion Park on Tuesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 604 for 6 declared (Gibbs 192, Smith 139, Kallis 130 not out; Sarwan 2-55)

WEST INDIES: First innings 301 (Gayle 77, Chanderpaul 42; Ntini 5-49, Nel 3-64)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 263-3)

Gayle c McKenzie b Ntini 107
Ganga b Ntini 0

Sarwan lbw b Pollock 119
Lara lbw b Nel 6

Chanderpaul c Gibbs b Kallis 27
Smith b Ntini 0

Jacobs lbw b Pollock 3
Drakes c Gibbs b Pollock 4

Dillon c Smith b Pollock 29
Collymore not out 13

Edwards b Nel 10
Extras: (b-4, lb-11, nb-8, w-7) 30

Total: (All out in 106.4 overs) 348
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-32, 3-99, 4-273, 5-277, 6-278, 7-284, 8-309, 9-322

Bowler O M R W
Pollock 32 10 69 4

Ntini 28 4 40 3
Nel 15.4 2 64 2

Kallis 16 4 49 1
Hall 0.2 0 4 0

Smith 8.4 1 24 0
Rudolph 6 0 24 0

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings
Smith not out 23
Gibbs not out 8

Extras: (b-4, nb-1, w-10) 15
Total: (For no loss in 3.4 overs) 46
Bowler O M R W
Dillon 2 0 17 0
Edwards 1.4 0 25 0
Result: South Africa won by 10 wickets and take the series 3-0.
Man-of-the-match: Herschelle Gibbs.
Man-of-the-series: Makhaya Ntini.

Nobody's a winner

FROM PAGE 13

National Cricket League matches played at different venues across the country yesterday:

KHULNA V CHITTAGONG
Venue: Shamsul Huda Stadium, Jessore

KHULNA: First innings 285 all out in 120.1 overs (Bashir 98 not out, Mordesh 51, Hasanuzzaman 48, Shaful 21, Razzak 19; Hasan 5-107, Raihan 3-51)

CHITTAGONG: First innings 358 all out in 158.4 overs (Anisul 118, Salahuddin 66, Arif 68; Al-Amin 1-47, Foizul 1-61, Razzak 3-88, Bashir 2-60, Shaful 1-24, Nizamuddin 2-65)

KHULNA: Second innings
Shaful b Hasan 21

Jalal c Arif b Sabbir 37

Hasibul run out 33

Hasanuzzaman run out 15

Bashir c Yasir b Raihan 22

Nizamuddin c Paul b Raihan 15

Neaz b Sabbir 39

Asadullah not out 3

Razzak c Mukter b Sabbir 0

Al-Amin c Yasir b Hasan 14

Foizul b Sabbir 0

Extras: (b-8, lb-3, nb-6, w-1) 18

Total: (All out in 91.2 overs) 187

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-50, 3-86, 4-88, 5-121, 6-132, 7-132, 8-140, 9-172

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Paul	9	0	21	0
Sabir	31.2	13	65	4
Raihan	25.1	10	47	2
Hasan	21.5	9	42	2
Masum	4	3	1	0

Result: Match drawn.
Man-of-the-match: Tamim Bashir (Khulna)

SYLHET V BARISAL
Venue: Barisal Stadium

SYLHET: First innings 375 all out in 143.1 overs (Nasirul 89, Rana 73, Parvez 55, Mowla 49; Mustadir 3-84, Tariqul 3-93)

BARISAL: First innings 217 all out in 84.2 overs (Mustadir 35, Salahuddin 54; Jakwan 4-83, Nabil 3-47, Imtiaz 1-29, Ejaz 1-6)

SYLHET: Second innings (overnight 99-5)

Mabud c Shaheen b Arafat 5

Emtiaz c Jamal b Tariqul 9

Parvez b Arafat 1

Atiqur b Mustadir 44

Mowla c Imran b Tariqul 10

Nasirul c Jamal b Tariqul 65

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mustadir b Arman	36	1	61	2
Ejaz not out	2	0	2	3
Extras: (b-7, lb-4)	11	0	0	0
Total: (For 7 wickets dec in 40 overs)	183			

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-15, 3-17, 4-46, 5-93, 6-181, 7-183

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bikash	4	2	8	0
Arafat	9	4	15	2
Tariqul	25	5	71	3
Arman	20.2	2	55	1
Mustadir	12	2	23	1

BARISAL: Second innings
Imran c Mowla b Ejaz 8

Jamal c Atiqur b Imtiaz 90

Nahidul b Mowla 24

Proshenjit c Parvez b Nabil 26

Arman b Ejaz 33

Towhid not out 11

Salahuddin not out 13

Extras: (b-9, nb-2, w-5) 16

Total: (For 5 wickets in 45 overs) 201

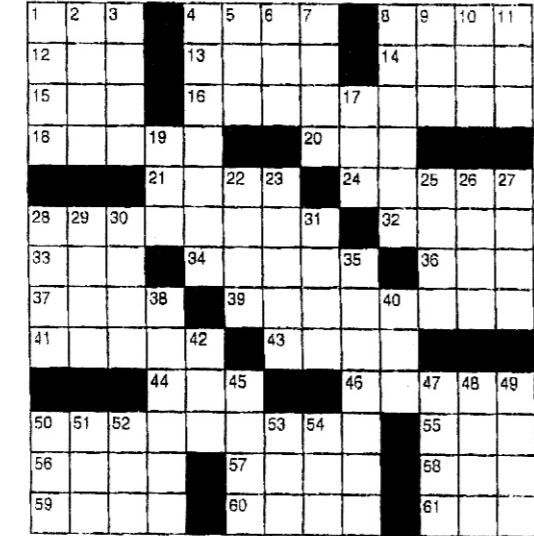
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-98, 3-151, 4-168, 5-180

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Jakwan	4	1	11	0
Parvez	3	0	6	0
Nabil	16	3	6	3

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 TVA construction bar codes
4 Posterior
8 Induce
12 Wheat
13 Heinz
14 Bloodhound's
15 Postal
16 Miltch
17 Miller
18 Telecast
19 Part
20 One of the kin
21 Lima
22 Wooden
23 New York
24 Prison
25 Protuberance
26 Packed
27 Sugar
28 "When I
29 Take My
30 Three — match

DOWN
2 Acknowledge
3 Unique
4 Mini-tree?
5 Welsh
6 Emblem
7 Optimistic
8 Where (Lat.)
9 Calendar
10 Sea island
11 Living
12 Sheltered
13 Eve's
14 Grandson
15 Miniver
16 Scenario
17 Newbies
18 To society
19 Feedback
20 Ocho
21 Capoch
22 Trouble
23 No later
24 Guitars
25 Knitter's
26 Dame --
27 Mad king
28 literature
29 Hanking
30 Approach
31 DNA component
32 Eternal
33 Hunk of gold
34 Guitars
35 Cousin
36 Remark
37 From the flock
38 Courtied
39 Interoffice
40 Maybe
41 Gumbo
42 Egg
43 Con-tainer?
44 Dimwit
45 Under the weather
46 Keau in
47 "The
48 Inseparable
49 Pirate



CRYPTOQUIP
K Q D J D J A D Q D C O Z D
J K F K L O D Q I F H J D A P O
K V N F C D Q D C V N P E C Z K L

Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF SOME PUEBLO TRIBE IS LIVING IN HARMONY, YOU MAY HAVE A GREAT BIG HOPI FAMILY.
Today's Cryptogram Clue: J equals M

The Cryptogram 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.

Ferdinand appeals

Football
AFP, London

England defender Rio Ferdinand has officially appealed against his eight-month suspension for missing a drugs test, it was announced by English football's governing body The Football Association (FA) on Monday.

The 25-year-old Manchester United centre-back starts his ban on Tuesday but has still decided to appeal the decision by a tribunal in December that he merited an eight-month ban - a decision deemed 'savage' and 'unprecedented' by club lawyer Maurice Watkins.

"I want to get back playing," Ferdinand said. "If starting the suspension now will help, then I'm prepared to suffer it."

The FA will now set up another three-man panel, chaired by a