SPORT

The Daily Star

Davis Cup Belarus abase Argentina

Tennis

REUTERS, London

Belarus sustained their giantkilling run in the Davis Cup on Saturday after Max Mirnyi and Vladimir Voltchkov grabbed a winning 3-0 lead against Argentina in the quarterfinals.

Brothers Mike and Bob Bryan combined to beat Jonas Bjorkman and Thomas Johansson 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to give the United States a 2-1 lead over Sweden.

France gained the psychological edge in their tie in Lausanne after Nicolas Escude and Michael Llodra defeated Roger Federer and Yves Allegro 6-7, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 to give the visitors a 2-1 advantage over Switzerland.

World Group newcomers Belarus, who had knocked out 2002 champions Russia in the first round, surged into the semifinals of the men's team competition for the first time after Mirnvi and Voltchkov joined forces to overwhelm Agustin Calleri and Lucas Arnold 6-3, 6-4, 6-1.

Playing without the injured Guillermo Coria and David Nalbandian. the Argentines strugaled to adjust to the fast carpet surface all weekend and failed to win even a set in the three rubbers. Mirnvi lived up to his nickname

of 'The Beast' as he helped hammer the Argentine duo with a combination of powerful serves and blistering groundstrokes from the baseline.

He was ably supported by Voltchkov, who delighted the capacity 4,800 crowd with his attacking netplay.

Belarus will be hoping to continue their astonishing run in this year's competition when they travel to either the United States or Sweden in September for the semifinals.

Despite losing their service at the start of the first two sets, the Bryan brothers, the world's number one doubles team, were far too strong for Bjorkman and Johansson at Delray Beach, Florida

securing victory over Argentina in the Davis Cup quarterfinals in Minsk on April 10. World number three Andy Roddick can clinch the tie for the

Onus on senior Pak players

REUTERS, Rawalpindi

Pakistan's senior players are feeling the pressure ahead of the deciding third Test against India starting on Tuesday

India won the first match at Butcher, Hussain, Thorpe, Flintoff, G fall in the morning period to leave West Jones, Batty, Hoggard, S Jones, Multan by an innings and 52 runs Indies 98 for two at lunch before rain delayed a resumption of hostilities for Harmison but Pakistan hit back at Lahore to Toss: West Indies. three hours win by nine wickets and level the Choosing to bat, West Indies saw Umpires: Darrel Hair and Aleem Dar series "It's a crucial decider and there and opening partner Darer Ganga bat through a testing first hour will be extra pressure on Inzamam before Andrew Flintoff made the and me," vice-captain Yousuf breakthrough CJKS-Ispahani Youhana told Reuters on Sunday. Ganga, playing back instead of for-Captain Inzamamul Hag, the ward to a pitched-up delivery, was FROM PAGE 13 most experienced Pakistani batsadjudged Ibw for 10 to leave West Opener Khairul scored 41 and Rabiul man, had scores of 77, 0 and 118 in Indies 33 for one. followed him with 35. Gayle and Lara added 65 for the the two Tests. Shafaq Al-Jabir took four wickets for second wicket when West Indies Youhana, who has played 50 36 and Rezaul grabbed three for 44 before the opening batsman drove Tests for his 3,677 runs and 11 In reply, Mohammedan reached back a return catch to off-spin bowler centuries, scored 35, 112 and 72. their target of 231 for five in 46.4 overs. Gareth Batty off the penultimate ball "After the retirements of Saeed Rezaul topscored with unbeaten 98 and before the interval Abu Sama made 36. Anwar and Wasim Akram last year. SCOREBOARD Saniov snatched two wickets there has been extra pressure on Scoreboard at stumps on the opening Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway the two of us in the rebuilding proday of the fourth and final Test between Sports Association got off to a flying start cess." Youhana said. West Indies and England at the in the First Division Cricket League Farhat came good in Lahore Antiqua Recreation Ground on defeating Muktijoddha Krira Chakra by slamming 101 for his second Test Saturdav three wickets at local Dampara Police century while Yasir scored 91 in the WEST INDIES: First innings Lines ground yesterday. Gayle c and b Batty 69 first Test at Multan but the batsmen Muktijoddha won the toss and Ganga Ibw b Flintoff 10 have lacked consistency. batting first made 136 after being all out 86 Lara not out in 30.4 overs. Youhana brushed aside Sarwan not out 41 In reply, Bangladesh Railway Pakistan's bowling woes with seam-Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 2 reached their target losing seven ers Umar Gul and Shabbir Ahmed Total: (For 2 wkts in 52 overs) 208 wickets in 31.3 overs. injured and paceman Mohammad Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-98

US when he faces Biorkman in the tant moments." said Llodra. first of Sunday's reverse singles "The role of (France captain) Guy (Forget) was also very impor-

match against the 25th-ranked

Arnaud Clement as a clear favour-

tie will go into to a live fifth rubber.

te. If Federer wins the match, the

In Palma, Spanish pair Tommy

Robredo and Rafael Nadal were

leading Dutchmen John Van

Lottum and Martin Verkerk by two

sets to one when rain halted play in

GMT on Sunday before the reverse

after Carlos Moya and Juan Carlos

Ferrero had both claimed easy

The match will resume at 0830

Spain went 2-0 up on Friday

their tie.

singles.

Belarus' Max Mirnyi (L) and Vladimir Voltchkov parade their national flag after

Bowler

Flintoff

Jones

Batty

Hoggard

Harmison

Collins, Collymore, Edwards

Ο М

14

13

8

8

ENGLAND: Trecothick, Vaughan,

Vintage Lara

we are looking at over 400 runs,"

"I felt good out there. I started well

He became one of the wickets to

but got out just before lunch and wasn't

able to carry on. But it's gone now and I

FROM PAGE 13

said Gayle.

will move on.

straight-set victories

rubbers If Bjorkman prevails, Mardy tant, especially after we lost the Fish and Thomas Enqvist will first set. He got us into the right contest the deciding fifth rubber. frame of mind for the second set." World number one Federer doubles. Federer will go into his

proved to be the weak link in the Swiss partnership as he was broken three times during the first three sets The Wimbledon and Australian

Open champion failed to reproduce the form that had helped him to demolish Escude in Friday's sinales. Left-hander Llodra, winner of

the Melbourne Park doubles title with Fabrice Santoro, was the architect of France's triumph, never dropping serve during the three-hour contest.

"I think the difference between the two pairs was that we were able to raise our level at the most imporMashonaland goes all-black AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe's premier provincial cricket team Mashonaland, which is usually stuffed with Test players, was taking the field this weekend with an all-black eleven for the first time in its more than 100-year Despite the setback in the history.

In normal circumstances, and maybe in a few years' time, this might be a cause for reioicing here. but it actually forebodes disaster for the sport in Zimbabwe this week.

The lack of whites in the Mashonaland side is the result of a boycott by four senior national cricketers of this premier interprovincial team for its first-class match against Midlands in the central town of Kwekwe. Another senior player was dropped by the Mashonaland selectors.

The boycott was the first direct consequence of the simmering crisis over the ousting of national captain Heath Streak, which has split cricket here along racial lines.

Despite being instructed to play by Zimbabwe Cricket Union director Ozias Bvute, spin bowler Ray Price, all-rounders Sean Ervine and Travis Friend and senior batsman Craig Wishart all failed to show up for the first-class match. And Andy Blignaut, although fit and the best bowler in the country after Streak was left out by the Mashonaland selectors

Blignaut had joined Grant Flower and lawyer Chris Venturas in support of Streak at their lengthy crisis meeting with the ZCU chairman Peter Chingoka, chief executive Vince Hogg and three directors on Thursday.

Ranatunga

FROM PAGE 13

PHOTO: AFP

RW

0

32

2

3 42

2 45

0 57

0 31

won the election and formed a ninority government Saturday.

Ranatunga, a hero in Sri Lanka after leading its cricketers to victory in the 1996 World Cup, said he was offered but declined the position of deputy minister of industries, tourism and investment promotion.

"It was a good position offered to me, but that was not what I was supposed to be doing. I am not keen on just getting some position. I don't want positions. All I wanted to do was contribute to improving sports." However, Ranatunga said he will

remain a backbench MP from the Freedom Alliance. Magura soccer

final today **OUR CORRESPONDENT**

Zia Smriti Sangsad take on Shafik Smriti Sangsad in the final of the Econo First Division Football

League at the Magura Stadium

Manikganj

cricket

Jekyll and Hyde Ronaldinho

Football

Primera Liga

AFP, Madrid

Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho scored one of the goals which set Barcelona on their way to a 3-1 at Valladolid on Saturday but then put his good work to waste by getting sent off

Real Betis.

Saviola had put them in front after

just two minutes when he was set

up by Dutchman Michael Reiziger.

Ronaldinho who found the net for

the 20th time this season.

points in the 85th minute.

at Ronaldinho's sending-off.

Half an hour later, Saviola

After the Brazilian's dismissal,

Barca now have 59 points, seven behind second-placed Valencia and turned provider to create a goal for eight off the pace set by Real Madrid, but their ongoing push for a Champions League place was overshadowed by Ronaldinho's dismissal.

The Brazilian star had already been booked for refusing to retreat the full ten metres from a free-kick and then received his second yellow card in the 55th minute when he tried to kick the ball out of the

Premiership

hands of Valladolid goalkeeper "It is ridiculous that a player of at the hands of Monaco when they Albano Bizzarri. Ronaldinho's level should be entertain Osasuna with all eyes The dismissal will rule him out of sent-off for that reason," said on England skipper David

Wednesday's league clash with Enrique. "But they are the rules. It is a Barca were cruising at the time serious loss for any team but this having gone 2-0 ahead. is Barcelona and we can still beat Argentinian international Javier Betis.'

Meanwhile, Malaga beat Atletico Madrid 3-1 in a battle of UEFA Cup hopefuls.

Uruguayan international Diego Alonso scored two of the goals in the 45th and 50th minute after Ivan Leko had put them in front after 31 minutes.

Valladolid took full advantage with Atletico's evening then got Oscar pulling a goal back in the worse when Fernando Torres was 66th minute but Andres Iniesta sent off and he will miss next then scored his first goal in the top week's derby against city rivals flight to make sure of the three Real. On Sunday, league leaders Barcelona's Luis Enrique hit out

Real Madrid look to bounce back from their Champions League exit

Beckham who is facing more lurid allegations in the British press over his private life. Second-placed Valencia travel to Real Zaragoza.

τορ six

Saturday(played, won, drawn, lost, goals

Real	31	20	7	4	65	37	67
Valencia	31	20	6	5	62	21	66
Barcelona	31	17	8	6	51	33	59
Deportivo	31	17	6	8	50	30	57
Atletico	32	13	9	10	39	39	48
Malaga	32	14	4	14	44	45	46

Charlton's hopes of a place in

South African striker Shaun

Europe were not helped by a 1-1

draw against struggling

point that keeps Pompey out of the

τορ six

English Premiership table after Saturday's

matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals

Newcastle 31 12 12 7 45 33 48

Birmingham 32 12 10 10 38 38 46

31 23 8 0 62 22 77

32 22 5 5 58 24 71

31 20 5 6 58 31 65

32 13 10 9 48 35 49

for, goals against, points):

Arsenal

Chelsea

Man Utd

Liverpool

Leicester however look increase

Spanish league standings on for, goals against, points):

their efforts

relegation zone.

It's Gunners' for the taking

Football

AFP, London

Chelsea boss Claudio Ranieri admitted his side had lost their chance of overtaking Arsenal at the top of the Premiership after they were held to a frustrating goalless draw by Middlesbrough on Saturday

Arsenal are now six points clear at the top and can extend that lead when they play their game in hand at Newcastle on Sunday.

display in Friday's 4-2 win over Liverpool, Ranieri is convinced they will not crack in the final run-

"I said only Arsenal could lose the title but after the Liverpool match I say, 'well done they are the

Ranieri admitted he had been hugely impressed by the way Arsenal bounced back from the bitter disappointment of going out of the Champions League to his

the Italian said. "I say well done.'

It was a drama-filled day at the bottom of the table with Leeds giving their survival chances a huge shot in the arm with a 2-1 win over fellow strugglers Blackburn at Ewood Park.

A second win in the space of five days was not quite enough to lift Leeds out of the drop zone. but it did put them level on points with the two teams immediately above them, Blackburn and Portsmouth.

Manchester City needed a stoppage time equaliser from Shaun Wright-Phillips to secure a 3-3 draw with bottom side Wolves that keeps them two points clear of the drop zone.

Manchester United took advantage of Chelsea's slip-up to close the gap between second and third to six points with a 2-1 comeback win at Birmingham. Louis Saha was United's

match-winner, nodding in a Ryan Giggs cross in the 78th minute after Cristiano Ronaldo had cancelled out Martin Grainger's first-half opener for Birmingham.

They always make it difficult for you but we managed to claw ourselves back into the game and once we equalised I felt we had a good chance of winning.

the ball was played to Tomasson.

A lucky escape for Milan main-

Milan have 72 points from their

tained their nine-point lead over

Roma, 3-1 winners against

Roma and tightened their grip on

third place - and a Champions

League ticket - when they beat

Lazio 1-0 thanks to an 88th min-

over Parma after the French

striker rose to head in Mauro

Camoranesi's cross for the winner

at the Stadio delle Alpi. It was

Roma, playing their home

Juvensince 1997.

Juve have a 12-point cushion

ute goal from David Trezeguet.

Roma have a game in hand.

Chievo.

was the verdict of United boss Sir Alex Ferguson. Not for the first time, the most dramatic match of the day took

place at the City of Manchester Portsmouth Stadium, where Kevin Keegan's side found themselves trailing to Bartlett scored his first goal since strikes from Mark Kennedy and October to give Charlton the lead Carl Cort. but Nigerian striker Yakubu's second half equaliser ensured a

Nicolas Anelka pulled one back with a header and Antoine Sibierski ensured City were back on level terms by the break.

Wolves went ahead again ingly like they will be playing first through Henri Camara after division football next season after a David James had saved a Colin double from substitute Collins Cameron penalty but Wright John earned Fulham a 2-0 win at Phillips popped up at the death to the Walkers Stadium secure a precious point.

At Blackburn, Scottish defender Stephen Caldwell's second-minute header put Leeds ahead before Mark Viduka scored his fourth goal in as many games two minutes from time to make sure of the points before Craig Short's late consolation effort for Rovers.

Bolton twice came back from a goal down to secure a home point against Aston Villa. Peter Crouch and Lee Hendrie were Villa's scorers with Henrik Pedersen and Kevin Davies, four minutes from time, cancelling out

time this season, edging a five-goal looked like a perfectly fair chal- match against Chievo in Palermo lenge on the Danish striker and because tus' first home victory over thriller against Bologna. Ancona's 3-2 victory took their points total to 10, two short of the alltime low in Serie A set by Brescia in the 1994/95 season. Reggina lost their cool as they battle to survive the drop, going down 1-0 at home to Udinese On Sunday, second-from-bottom Perugia play at home to Inter Milan.

Given the quality of Arsenal's in.

champions'.

own side in midweek. "They are the champions because they showed a fantastic reaction and fantastic character."

Serie A Milan's penalty escape

Sami doubtful because of back pain.

tree

40 Expert

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Solution time: 24 mins.

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36 Hardwood 59 Ever-

21 Grouch

22 Highway

section

To bat: Powell, Hinds, Jacobs, Best,

and made 125-7. Siddik top-scored with 41 and Delwar made 16.

yesterday.

today.

Narail Govt

FROM PAGE 13

Cricket Stadium while Blue Bird ran away with a two-wicket victory against National Banala High at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University.

49.4 overs (Nasif 27, Mamun 25; Enamul 2-25, Mainul 2-17, Ahsanul

24.5 overs (Sabur 77, Johny 32; Ragibul 2-44, Saikat 1-20) Result: Narail Govt High School won by seven wickets. DINAJPUR ZILLA: 126 all out in 38.4 overs (Moon 24, Tazim 24; Saif 4-23 Raisul 3-20) WILLES LITTLE FLOWER: 129 for 3 in 17.1 overs (Saif 46, Mehrab 31) Sumon 1-18, Tazim 1-21) Result: Willes Little Flower won by seven wickets. SABUJ KANAN HIGH: 191 all out in 36.1 overs (Rubel 36, Sony 31; Shafigur 6-22, Kamal 2-46) AK HIGH: 114 all out in 36.2 overs (Hasan 40, Shafigur 19; Ismail 3-19, Fahim 2-15, Rubel 2-18) Result: Sabui Kanan won by 77 runs

out in 39.5 overs (Shahin 37, Nisad 30; Fahim 3-21, Tawfig 2-14) BLUE BIRD: 145 for 8 in 43.4 overs (Nayeem 25, Talha 24, Nisad 4-17, Babu 2-42) Result: Blue Bird won by two wick-

ets

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Pukhuria Star Club defeated Mona Lisa Ekadosh by 74 runs in the Shaheed Zia Memorial Cricket Tournament at the Mulian High School playground in Manikganj Pukhuria Star Club batted first

In reply, Mona Lisa Ekadosh were bundled out for 51 in eight

2-21)

NATIONAL BANGLA HIGH: 142 all

The big match takes 25 days Andrea Pirlo converted a controafter the second semifinal on March versial late penalty for AC Milan

AFP, Milan

Football

as the deposed Champions League holders bounced back from their embarrassing European exit to move a step closer to the Italian league title on Saturday.

Denied a place in the semifinals of Europe's premier club competition after throwing away a three-goal first-leg advantage against Deportivo La Coruna on Wednesday, Milan appeared to be heading for their third successive league draw against a stubborn Empoli side fighting against relegation.

But with the visitors frustrating their illustrious opponents and Milan's nerves jangling, the league leaders were awarded a dubious spot-kick four minutes from the end when Empoli goalkeeper Daniele Balli collided with Jon Dahl Tomasson.

Balli was sent off for what

Becks' second lover! fuelling media speculation that their

The England captain, reputedly the world's best-paid footballer, has denied the allegations.

A second woman meanwhile came forward claiming to have had an affair with the former Manchester United star.

Malaysian-born Sarah Marbeck. 29. who now lives in Australia. alleged she had an affair with the father-of-two for up to two years. after meeting in Singapore in July 2001 when he was on tour with Manchester United.

"Sleeping with David Beckham was a momentous day for me. not just a one-night stand," she told the News of the World.

"I certainly didn't take our affair lightly and nor did he. This is probably the most famous father, family man and husband in the world and he changed my life," said Marbeck, described as a barrister's daughter. Loos meanwhile met Beckham while chaperoning him in Madrid, where the midfielder plays for giants Real Madrid.

Beckham's wife Victoria, a former member of now-defunct British band The Spice Girls, continued to base herself in England in order to pursue her own career,

Pirlo made no mistake from 12 Lazio of a stadium ban imposed on them after their fans went on the yards to give Milan a fortuitous 1-0 victory at the San Siro. rampage in last month's derby Aside from the innocuous

against Lazio, overcame the challenge, Empoli's players were absence of their suspended captain also unhappy because they Francesco Totti to beat the Verona thought that several Milan players side were in an offside position when

Norwegian striker John Carew put Roma in front just before the half hour mark, latching on to Gaetano D'Agostini's back-heeled flick and smashing a left-footed shot into the bottom corner from an acute angle.

Roma's advantage was short-29 matches played, although lived however with Federico Cossato's flying header from Andrea Reigning champions Juventus Zanchetta's chipped free-kick levelmoved to within one point of ling the scores.

Antonio Cassano headed home from close range to restore Roma's lead on the hour before Chievo Andrea Barzagli diverted D'Agostino's left-wing cross into his own net.

Parma put the pressure on Lazio. eapfrogging the Romans into fourth place thanks to a 3-1 win at home to Lecce where Alberto Gilardino scored twice to take his Serie Atally to 17. Relegated Ancona won for the first

"His wife was thousands of miles

England manager Sven-Goran

away all the time and was no sup-

port to him at all," said Loos, the

Eriksson says he was confident his

skipper would be at his best for the

Euro 2004 finals this summer

despite the allegations about his

Eriksson said that the newspa-

per coverage was part of the pack-

age for top footballers like Beckham

who are constantly in the public eye.

England realise they have to live

with this kind of thing. He is very

strong," the England chief told the

media works. They are not too

"They know how the English

"All international players in

marriage was under strain.

daughter of a Dutch diplomat.

private life.

Mail on Sunday.

revive her pop career.

TOP SI) Italian football league table after

Saturday's lost, for, ag				/ed,	wor	n, dra	awn,
Milan	29	22	6	1	57	19	72
Roma	28	19	6	3	62	14	63
Juventus	29	19	5	5	57	34	62
Parma	29	14	8	7	47	38	50
Lazio	28	14	5	9	43	31	47
Inter	28	13	7	8	47	29	46

US Masters Woods goes on

rollercoaster

REUTERS, Augusta

Tiger Woods's rollercoaster ride at the US Masters continues as the world number one tumbles down the leaderboard.

In search of his third green jacket in four years, it has been a stomachchurning three-days of hair-raising highs and lows for Woods, who will enter Sunday trailing the co-leaders Chris DiMarco and Phil Mickelson by nine shots after firing a third round three-over

Having hauled his way back into contention with a second-round 69 after opening with an out-of-sorts 75. Woods stepped onto the first tee on Saturday poised to make one of his patented charges but instead flirted with his worst round ever as a professional at Augusta.

worried about what people write." Beckham reputedly nets around After 14 holes a bewildered Woods 20 million dollars a year in wages a look of anguish now permanently and sponsorship deals, dwarfing the etched on his famous face, was reeling earnings of his wife who is trying to from the effects of four bogeys and a double bogey.

The 28-year-old American, however, remained unbowed, two birdies from the last four holes breathing a bit of life into his fading hopes.

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SCORES IN BRIEF SAINT XAVIER'S: 130 all out in NARAIL GOVT HIGH: 132 for 3 in

Football

AFP. London

David Beckham faced a new rash of lurid headlines on Sunday as "kissand-tell" stories alleging affairs with two women were splashed across British newspapers.

A second woman joined his former personal assistant in alleging a steamy fling with the Real Madrid star, whose love life and marriage

the focus of a media frenzy here. The footballer's former PA

an interview published a week after the allegations first surfaced that she had bedded Beckham.

"What happened between me and David was more than just sex," Loos told the News of the World, which reportedly paid her 350,000 pounds (530,000 euros, 640,000

"He needed a woman to be with him and to help him through a difficult lonely spell in his life," said 26year-old Loos, who claims to have slept with Beckham on four occasions

dollars) for her story.

with pop star Victoria has become

Rebecca Loos spilled the beans in