

## QUEEN'S CLUB TENNIS Nadal, Hewitt advance

AFP, London

Rafael Nadal won his first singles match since destroying Roger Federer in the French Open final as the Spaniard advanced to the third round at Queen's Club on Wednesday.

Nadal was back in action just three days after his astonishing three-set rout of world number one Federer in Paris, but there was no hanger here as Jonas Bjorkman was put to the sword 6-2, 6-2.

This was the perfect way for Nadal to mark the start of his campaign to unseat Federer as the Wimbledon champion. His dominance over the Swiss on clay is unquestioned, but successive final defeats to Federer at the All-England Club are a constant regret for such fierce competitor.

Bjorkman is a seasoned grass court campaigner but he was no match for Nadal's potent mix of power and poise from the baseline.

Nadal was quick to impose his will on Bjorkman by breaking the veteran Swede in a long third game. There was no way back for Bjorkman after that.

Japanese teenager Nishikori continued his dream debut at Queen's with a 7-6 (10/8), 6-3 win over unseeded Frenchman Olivier Patience.

Lleyton Hewitt kept up his challenge for a record fifth Queen's title as the Australian moved into the third round with a 6-3, 6-2 win against Xavier Malisse.

Andy Roddick, the other man chasing five Queen's titles, recovered from a slow start to get his bid up and running with a 6-7 (6/8), 6-1, 6-1 victory over Robby Ginepri.

French fifth seed Richard Gasquet, who beat Roddick en route to the Wimbledon semifinals last year, returned to action with a routine 6-3, 6-3 win over Italy's Simone Bolelli.

## Div II cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

New Star Club defeated Dawli Udayan Sangha by six wickets in the Sun Life Insurance Second Division Cricket League at the Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

Dawli batted first and were bowled out for 98 runs in 25 overs with Rony taking three wickets and Mamun picking up two.

In reply, New Star reached their target in only 19.2 overs with Milon making 19 and Ujjal hitting 18. Nahid took two wickets.

## Samuels ban to be reviewed

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Beloff, the chairman of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) code of conduct commission, was to review the two-year ban imposed on Marlon Samuels by the West Indies Cricket Board on Wednesday.

On May 9, a disciplinary committee of the board deemed that Samuels had breached section C4 of the ICC's Code of Conduct regulations, which involves receiving money, benefit or other reward which could bring him or the game of cricket into disrepute.

## Can Mashrafe

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"In one-day cricket, victory is not granted for any team because it looks like a lottery. We believe that there is equal chance for the teams in one-day cricket. So no way we can be complacent after the massive victory against Pakistan in the first match," said India coach Gary Kirsten yesterday during a practice session at Mirpur.

The former South African opener hinted to adopt a rotation policy in the match as he believed that his side is enjoying the luxury of implementing against Bangladesh before the final.

"There is a possibility to rotate the players in the match but we are yet to single out any player," he said adding that they are also considering to talk with the local organisers to get a permission from the game's governing body to change the ball before the existing policy of "after 35 overs" because of the condition.

## Sixth SAFF

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However, the history of SAFF is a history of delays and it could well be held in 2010. There was no tournament in 2001 and the ongoing edition, co-hosted by Sri Lanka and Maldives, was originally scheduled for 2007.

India will become the first nation to host the tournament twice after staging the second edition of SAFF Championship -- which was originally the Saarc regional tournament before inclusion of Afghanistan in 2003 -- in Goa in 1999.



India captain Baichung Bhutia leaps in the air to nod the ball as Bhutan goalkeeper Jigme Singhe (R) and his teammates look on during their SAFF Championship semifinal at the National Stadium in Male yesterday.

# India, Maldives in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Midfielder Goumangi's stoppage time goal after 120 minutes of battling football fired defending champions India into the final of the fifth SAFF Championship with a 2-1 victory against stubborn Bhutan yesterday.

India had to come from a goal down to tame the surprise pack of the eight-nation tournament at the National Stadium in Male to set a final clash against Maldives, who beat Sri Lanka 1-0 in the other semifinal in Colombo last night.

Ibrahim Fazeel's clinical finish in the 71st minute after a gem of a pass by Ali Ashfaq separated the two sides at the Sugathadasa Stadium, which will host Saturday's final.

Bhutan stunned the three-time SAFF champions in the 18th minute when Kinley Dorji picked up the ball from the left wing and fired a low drive past the Indian keeper from a tight angle.

Indian striker Sunil Chetri brought India back into the game just after the half-hour mark, shoot-

ing home inside from the six-yard box.

It was Chetri who came close to sore in the fifth minute but the tidy Bhutan defence kept the ball away for a corner.

Baichung Bhutia was denied by the post when the Indian captain headed the resulting corner and Bhutan almost scored from a counter attack two minutes later, only to see Nima Sangay missing the target by inches.

Although India dominated the first half, they failed to capitalise on the attacks as Chetri forced a fine save by Bhutan goalie Jigme Singhe and Bhutia failed to keep most of his efforts on target.

A header from Bhutia was cleared from the goal line on the hour before the veteran of four SAFF Championship campaigns failed to keep his shot into an empty net in the 77th minute.

Three minutes before full time, Bhutan's Yashay Dorji was under no pressure from the Indian backline but he shot off target.

Both the sides had chances to seal the victory in extra period but India, looking desperate to avoid the tiebreakers, got the winner in the first minute of injury time of the 30-minute extra-time.

The Bhutanese defence failed to clear a freekick and an unmarked

Goumangi lobbed the ball into the far post with a sidevolley, giving substitute goalkeeper Puspa no chance to react.

It looked to be a poor decision to replace Jigme, who was brilliant throughout the game, with Puspa seconds before the goal with tiebreakers in the mind of Bhutan's Japanese coach Koji Goyotoku, who took full responsibility of the costly substitution.

"I take full responsibility of the substitution. I even apologised to the players, that was my mistake," said Koji who has been with the Bhutan for two months.

"The assistant coach said he (Puspa) is a good stopper, so I introduced to him."

"We didn't under estimate Bhutan," said Indian coach Bob Houghton.

"It was difficult to play four games in eight days," said the Englishman who was worried about injuries to four midfielders.

"Steven (Dias), Renedy (Singh), Climax (Lawrence) and Manju could miss the final due to injury."

"It was another poor day for our strikers. After creating so many chances we couldn't score. But Bhutan played really well, so full credit to them."

## Sabrina sails

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third in his favourite 10 meter Air Rifles, scoring 677.2 points.

Imam Hossain of Army clinched the event's gold scoring 685.3, while Azizur Rahman of Narayanganj became second scoring 682.6 points.

Imran Hossain of Kushtia Rifles Club and Mahendra Kumar Singh of Army won the top slot in the men's 10 meter Air Pistol (juniors) and 50 meter Air Pistol respectively.

## Bangladesh fly

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Musa Mia, Hasan Ahmed, Sheikh Mohammad Nannu, Maksud Alam, Habibul Islam Rajan, Rimun Kumar Ghosh and Krishna Kumar.

Officials: Mahubul Harun (coach), Kamrul Islam Kismat (manager), Shahidullah Dolon (assistant manager), Barkat Ullah Chapal (assistant coach), Mirza Farad Ahmed (judge) and Mahubul Haq Mitu (umpire).

## Fans welcome home Ivanovic

AFP, Belgrade

Thousands of adoring fans lined the streets of Belgrade Tuesday to welcome home Ana Ivanovic after her Roland Garros victory, in a party the new number one will not forget in a long time.

"This moment will be not equalled, I will remember it all my life," said an emotional Ivanovic in a moving speech to supporters carrying banners and chanting "Ana, we love you."

"The last days have been a dream. I will never forget Roland Garros. When I heard the national anthem (Boze Pravde) I couldn't hold back the tears," said the 20-year-old. It was a special moment for her.

On Saturday the Serbian won the French Open, her first Grand Slam title, beating 13th seed Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-3.

An elated Ivanovic was in confident mood ahead of next month's Wimbledon.

"It will be difficult at Wimbledon but I think we will be able to meet here again to party," she said before throwing tennis balls into the crowd.

# Casson set for debut Final WI-Aus Test starts today

Cricket

AFP, Bridgetown

Beau Casson will become the 401st player to wear the Baggy Green cap for Australia, when he makes his debut in the third and final Test against West Indies starting on Thursday.

The Australians have ignored local knowledge that the Kensington Oval pitch -- relaid for last year's World Cup -- will be livelier than the surfaces for the first two Tests of the series in Jamaica and Antigua.

They have resisted temptation to pick four frontline fast bowlers and have chosen to stick their long-held policy of a balanced attack which will include Casson.

The left-arm bowler will replace Stuart MacGill, who retired after the second Test, as the only change in the Australia line-up for the crucial Test.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting is confident that Casson will handle the pressure of his first Test, considering the maturity that he has seen from the spin bowler since the Aussies arrived in the Caribbean.

"He has come along in leaps and bounds as a person," Ponting said. "He has been a little bit more outspoken than at the start of the tour."

"It has helped his bowling a lot,

and if you talk to him, he feels he has become a more consistent bowler now than when he arrived, and this is a good sign for him."

After battling injuries, poor form and switching states in the past few years, Casson has come to this point following Brad Hogg's retirement, as well as MacGill's, along with the failure of Cullen Bailey and Dan Cullen to impress in Australian domestic cricket.

"I have had a pretty close look at him throughout this tour, and I have had a few good chats with him about his bowling," Ponting said.

"He is pretty eager to learn, but he's well sorted to tell the truth. He knows his stuff pretty well, and it's obvious he's had a fair bit of help along the way."

Australia lead the three-Test series 1-0, after they won the opener at Sabina Park by 95 runs, and Ponting hopes the predictions about the pitch hold true, since he reckons some of the West Indies' top-order batsmen are a little susceptible to short-pitched bowling.

"Some of their bowlers have been talking to some of their batsmen, and telling them that they can't wait to get us down to Barbados where there is more pace and bounce," he said.

"We are brought up on these kinds of pitches, so I do not think there will be too many Aussie bats-

men having sleepless nights. "But it's also the style of cricket that West Indies have grown up playing. Their bowlers are going to enjoy it, but our batsmen may enjoy it a little more than theirs."

Wicketkeeper-batsman Brad Haddin also had a cloud of doubt hovering over him, but this has cleared, following medical treatment which included the nail on his injured finger being removed.

"He was more worried about this than the break in his finger," Ponting said. "He has played with those sorts of things before. He's played the first two Tests with it, and he's a tough little bugger, so he'll be fine."

**SQUADS**

**WEST INDIES (from):** Chris Gayle (captain), Ramnaresh Sarwan (vice captain), Sulieman Benn, Dwayne Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Sewnarine Chattergeon, Fidel Edwards, Xavier Marshall, Runako Morton, Daren Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Kemar Roach, Darren Sammy, Jerome Taylor.

**AUSTRALIA:** Ricky Ponting (captain), Phil Jaques, Simon Katich, Mike Hussey, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Brad Haddin, Brett Lee, Mitchell Johnson, Stuart Clark, Beau Casson.

**Umpires:** Aleem Dar and Mark Benson.

# Foreigners hurt England

Football

AFP, London

Too many foreign players in English clubs have damaged the England national team, said Premier League chairman Sir David Richards on the Guardian newspaper internet site on Tuesday.

On the fourth day of the 16-nation, Euro 2008 championships in Switzerland and Austria, with England a major absentee from the June 7 to 29 football jamboree, Richards' views have come to light.

Speaking at the Third Dubai International Sports Conference, Richards said in a recording obtained by the Guardian: "Does the Premier League hurt the

national side? I think the answer to that has got to be yes.

"We've been a bit lazy in the Premier League over the years. We created a system of academies and every club spends about three million pounds a year developing young players. But it hasn't worked, because the availability for us to go out and buy the best stars is an easy thing.

"Anybody who comes into the league needs to stay in it, so needs to buy the best stars. We pick kids up at eight years old, we send them to the academy, then at 16 we make them a student, then at 18 we say they haven't made it."

Richards went further by admitting former England manager Steve McClaren lost his job last year because of the status quo.

"Steve will tell you that he has to have the best players available and

the Premier League has hurt him," Richards said.

"In fact, I would probably go as far as to say the Premier League has probably cost him his job. Because what we've done, we've actually bought all these foreign players in."

Richards' comments contradict the line insisted upon by the clubs and by the league's chief executive, Richard Scudamore, that the preponderance of overseas players was not responsible for England's failure to qualify for this summer's European Championship.

In response to Richards' words, the Premier League said: "These comments do not represent the collective view of the Premier League."

Still according to the Guardian, Richards later did not deny he had made the comments but claimed that what he had said was not quite what he had meant.

# Nasser likes T20 League

Cricket

AFP, London

Former England captain Nasser Hussain believes the fact finalists in this season's Twenty20 Cup will qualify for the lucrative new Champions League will take the tournament to another level.

The ex-Essex batsman compared the semifinals of the county competition, which starts on Wednesday, to the Championship play-off final in football which sees a team promoted to the money-

spinning English Premier League.

"Sport is better when there is something big hanging on the outcome. The higher the stakes, the more intense the pressure and the more the character of the players is revealed," Hussain wrote in his column for Britain's Daily Mail.

"The winners of the cup, which starts tomorrow, get something like 40,000 pounds (80,000 dollars).

"But the two counties who reach the final will have the chance to earn 2.4 million pounds (5 million dollars) from the Champions League, so can you imagine the atmosphere if a team need four

from the last ball in one of those semifinals?"

"What we will see is the cricketing equivalent of the football play-off final, with the winners going to the Premier League."

Twenty20, which was pioneered as a professional sport in English county cricket, has quickly become quickly popular around the world.

It led to the creation of a World Twenty20 and a cash-rich tournament in India as well as talk of matches between England and a Caribbean all-star side bankrolled by Texan billionaire Allen Stanford.

# Flintoff, Jones key: Waugh If England are to regain the Ashes next year

Cricket

AFP, London

Former Australia captain Steve Waugh believes fast bowlers Andrew Flintoff and Simon Jones hold the key to England's hopes of regaining the Ashes on home soil next year.

"It'll be very hard for England to win without him (Flintoff)," Waugh told the July issue of the Wisden Cricketer magazine.

"When he's there he's got a certain aura about him. Simon Jones is the other one that England need to get back in the fold as soon as they can."

Flintoff and Jones were England's leading wicket takers in the victorious 2005 Ashes series, with 42 wickets between them, but have never played a Test together since.

Jones hasn't played a Test since the fourth Ashes match against Australia three years ago at Trent Bridge after a succession of injuries

but is now back bowling for Worcestershire.

Flintoff, whose most recent Test was against Australia in Sydney in January 2007 where he captured England in a defeat that saw them lose the last Ashes 5-0, is currently out with a side injury having suffered with ankle trouble.

Waugh, 43, believes England, who last weekend wrapped up a 2-0 series win over New Zealand, require consistency in team selection but was hopeful they could mount a strong challenge for the Ashes.

"That's what Test cricket is all about. There's no doubt England have talent out there. After winning the last series here you'd expect a good battle."

He added: "I think they're looking for some more stability in their side and for England's sake they've got to stick to 12-13 players for a while and believe in that group."

Waugh said Australia remained a "formidable" team despite the retirements of leading players

Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Adam Gilchrist and Justin Langer.

"The replacements are excellent and there seems to be players that are willing to come in and do it straight away," Waugh said.

"Mitchell Johnson came along last year, Brett Lee stepped up and there's Stuart Clark. I still think we're a very formidable side."

Meanwhile Waugh said he would have liked to have played in the new, lucrative, domestic Twenty20 event in India.

"It's a bit like Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket. It's new and never been done before and to be a part of that would be pretty special. Look, I think I would have played if I'd been asked."

However he stressed it was important Test cricket retained its position at the summit of world cricket.

"Young kids are going to love Twenty20. But we also have to make sure they know about Test cricket and why it's important. Because if you don't, then you might lose it."

## No clear

FROM PAGE 17

Loew at Germany's Euro 2008 base in Tenero.

"Portugal were impressive in the first game, we had a satisfying result and the Dutch looked strong."

"But yesterday's (win over Italy, just like the games at the weekend, was only one individual match.

"To win the tournament, you need to be very consistent and it's too early to say which teams will have that quality."

And Portugal's coach and Gene Hackman look-alike Luiz Felipe Scolari played down his side's chances of winning Euro 2008 despite their strong opening performance, a 2-0 win against Turkey.

"I am pleased with the way our side is going, but tactically, there is no better team than Germany, while Holland played very well," said Scolari, who is still being courted by Premiership side Chelsea.

"I feel we have some way to go and improvements to make before we will match those sides.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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12 Profit  
13 Dance syllable  
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22 St. Louis team  
23 Scrooge's cry  
26 Silthery swimmer  
28 Informative  
31 Sci-fi villain  
33 Plagiarize  
35 Crouper's tool  
36 Lily variety

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2 Cambo-dia neighbor  
3 Wire rooms, for short  
4 Llamas' range  
5 Hydrox look-alike  
6 Surprise cries  
7 Common-est WSW  
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9 Rule of the brass  
11 The Bee -  
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23 Telly net  
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27 Part of UCLA  
29 Tackle  
30 Longing moguls  
32 Develop-ment  
34 Sim-cle  
37 Actress MacGraw  
39 Incite  
42 Lucy's partner in mischief  
44 Members of the brass  
45 Drop (down)  
46 Exceptional  
48 Treaty  
49 Beige  
50 Scratch-ed (out)  
53 Lennon's lady

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## CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY NEW PAIR OF  
WINGTIPS SIMPLY WOULD NOT FIT AT FIRST, SO  
I SHouted "THE SHOE MUST GO ON!"  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T