

## Nadal-Murray showdown

AFP, Indian Wells

World number one Rafael Nadal will try to add the first Masters Series title of 2009 to his Australian Open crown when he meets Andy Murray in the final at Indian Wells on Sunday.

Nadal, titlist here in 2007, defeated home favourite Andy Roddick 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to reach the final, while world number four Murray ousted world number two Roger Federer 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

Nadal reached his third final of 2009, the first being his memorable triumph over Federer in the Australian Open championship match.

He was beaten by Murray in the championship match in Rotterdam, and said the 21-year-old Scot poses a demanding challenge.

In addition, Nadal said, Murray's mental game has improved over the past year.

Nadal, owner of 11 elite Masters Series titles, leads their career head-to-head 5-2.

## PWD, Swadhinata promoted to Div II

SPORTS REPORTER

PWD confirmed promotion to next year's second division when they emerged champions in Super League Group A of the Citycell Third Division Football League yesterday.

PWD defeated Tongi KC 1-0 in a play-off to determine the group winners after both finished on five points after three matches in their group.

Farhad Hossain struck the all important goal in the 55th minute at the Shaheed Bishreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

Swadhinata KS are the other team to have confirmed promotion after winning Group B.

PWD and Swadhinata will play in the final on March 26 for the championship.

## T20 meet

FROM PAGE 17

to the World Cup so that the players can prepare well at home and hopefully it will take final shape in the next board meeting," said Gazi Ashraf Hossain, chairman of the BCB's tournament committee, yesterday.

The board shifted its focus to a tournament, which was not in its annual calendar, after the home series against Pakistan was postponed due to security concern. Pakistan were scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on March 7 to play two Twenty20 games and five one-day matches but BCB postponed the series following the carnage at Dhaka's BDR headquarters last month and terror attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team bus in Lahore earlier this month.

Although the board failed to arrange any sponsor for this year's Premier League, it is planning to involve corporate houses as promoters of the six clubs in the Twenty20 tournament.

"We have a plan to make it big. We will try to lure the corporate houses in this tournament," said Jalal Yunus.

But Gazi Ashraf, the former national captain, said that one of the main problems to hold a real Twenty20 tournament is the lack of floodlight facilities at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

## Hundred 100s

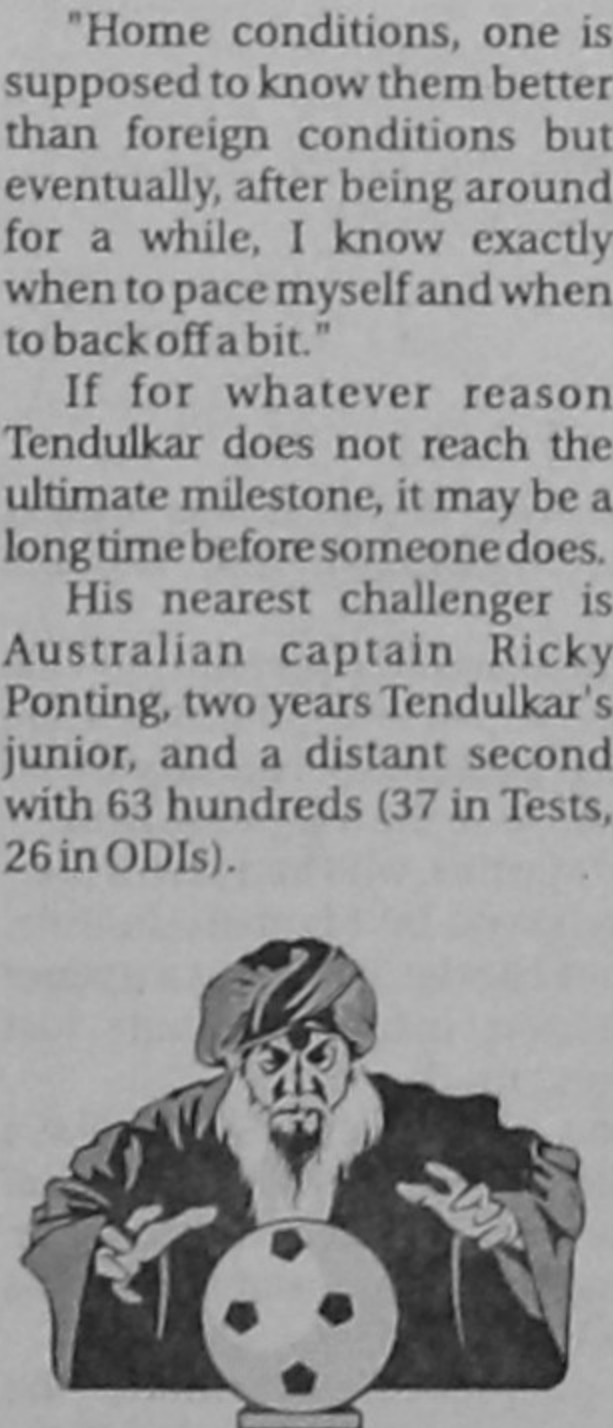
FROM PAGE 20

will come, Tendulkar has no preference for where he bats well.

"Home conditions, one is supposed to know them better than foreign conditions but eventually, after being around for a while, I know exactly when to pace myself and when to back off a bit."

If for whatever reason Tendulkar does not reach the ultimate milestone, it may be a long time before someone does.

His nearest challenger is Australian captain Ricky Ponting, two years Tendulkar's junior, and a distant second with 63 hundreds (37 in Tests, 26 in ODIs).



## Did U Know?

Two basketball leagues – the National Basketball League (NBL) and the Basketball Association of America (BAA) – merged in 1949 to become today's National Basketball Association (NBA).



**LITTLE TIPS:** English golf coach John Little (L) imparts his world of experience to a Bangladesh golfer preparing for next year's SA Games at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. Little is in the city following an invitation of Bangladesh Golf Federation. He will train the Bangladeshi players till March 31.

## Johnson delays defeat

FROM PAGE 17

the boundary in an invitation to Johnson to take a single and expose new batsman Bryce McGain.

But Johnson pulled the second ball for six to raise a maiden Test century.

In the same over Johnson called for a suicidal second run and McGain was run out at the bowler's end.

Johnson finished on 123 not out off 103 balls with 11 fours and five sixes.

Only 40 runs were scored during the morning for the loss of Simon Katich's wicket but three wickets fell between lunch and tea before McDonald and Johnson came

together.

South Africa had to wait 98 minutes before Harris had Katich caught at mid-off after Katich and Mike Hussey dug in with cautious batting, adding just 36 runs from the start of play.

Katich was out for 54, adding 10 runs in 60 balls before playing a loose drive. He could have been out without adding to his overnight 44 when Harris put down a straightforward chance at gully off Steyn in the ninth over of the morning.

Hussey was caught at gully off Steyn four overs after lunch for 39 and Brad Haddin

became Harris' third victim when he holed out to mid-on.

Australian vice-captain Michael Clarke made a fighting 47 before he was bowled off an inside edge by Steyn, armed with the second new ball, shortly before tea.

It was the fourth successive time a decision by Bucknor, standing in his last Test match before retirement, was overturned on referral.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fourth day of the third and final Test between South Africa and Australia at Newlands on Sunday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 209  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 651 (De Villiers 163, Prince 150, Kallis 102, Morkel 58)

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings (overnight 102-2)

Hughes c Kallis b Harris 32  
Katich c Duminy b Harris 54  
Ponting c Boucher b Steyn 12  
Hussey c Duminy b Steyn 39  
Clarke b Steyn 47

Haddin c Duminy b Harris 18  
McDonald c De Villiers b Harris 68  
Johnson not out 123

Siddle c De Villiers b Harris 0  
McGin run out 12

Hillenghaus c Prince b Harris 10  
Extras: (b-8, lb-2, nb-5, w-2) 17  
Total: (All out in 121.5 overs) 422

Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-76, 3-138, 4-146, 5-191, 6-218, 7-381, 8-381, 9-387, 10-422.

**Bowler O M R W**

Steyn 27 5 96 3

Ntini 19 6 66 0

Morkel 20 1 88 0

Harris 42.5 9 127 6

Kallis 10 4 21 6

Duminy 3 1 14 0

**Result:** South Africa won by an innings and 20 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Paul Harris.

**Man-of-the-series:** Mitchell Johnson.

## City sink

FROM PAGE 17

brought some respect City's total by scoring a quickfire 45 off 31 balls hitting eight boundaries.

Victoria started poorly losing both their openers in the third over with the score on 12. The third wicket fell after only adding five runs to the total which brought all rounder Akl Arshad to the crease who top scored with 27. Victoria lost three more wickets in the space of 13 overs and 50 runs when wicketkeeper Mohammad Selim and all rounder Arafat Salahuddin took their team over the finishing line in 22.3 overs.

Akl Arshad was adjudged player of the match for his all round performance of 3-6 and 27 runs.

Victoria has now strengthened their claim to stay in the Premier League by winning the match and bringing their points tally up to eight. The third team in the relegation phase Young Pegasus are at five points and need to win both their games to stay in the League.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

City Club will meet Young Pegasus on March 24 and Victoria plays Young Pegasus on March 27 in the rest of the relegation league matches at Mirpur.

## Foreign referees for semis, final

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdur Rahman, a referee from Qatar, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to officiate the second leg semifinals of the ongoing Citycell Super Cup.

Rahman will conduct today's Abahani-Brothers and tomorrow's Dhaka Mohammedan-Chittagong Mohammedan matches with help of local assistant referees.

An Iranian trio, however, will be in charge of the March 27 final.

The three Iranians -- Faghani Alireza, Sokhandan Reza and Fouroughi Rasoul -- are due in Dhaka before the final.

The decision to appoint foreign referees was taken in the wake of different teams' complain against poor refereeing.

## BCB Academy-U 19s to play exhibition

SPORTS REPORTER

A limited overs exhibition match between GP-BCB National Cricket Academy and Bangladesh Under-19 will be held on March 26 on the occasion of the Independence Day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced a 14-member squad for the match yesterday with Marshall Ayub leading the Academy side and young wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Mithun captaining the Under-19s.

**GP-BCB NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY:** Marshall Ayub (captain), Shamsur Rahman (Vice Captain), Zahurul Islam, Forhad Hossain, Nasiruddin Faruque, Nadif Chowdhury, Sahagir Hossain (Wicketkeeper), Robiul Islam, Mohamed Azim, Sajedul Islam, Arafat Salahuddin, Sohrwardi Shuvo, Arafat Sunny, Nabil Samad

**BANGLADESH UNDER 19:** Mohammad Mithun (Captain/Wicketkeeper), Saikat Ali, Amit Majumder, Asif Ahmed, Nasir Hossain, Sabbir Ahmed, Rony Talukder, Nour Hossain, Ariful Haque, Shaker Ahmed, Alauddin Babu, Dewan Sabbir, Kamrul Islam and Tasamul Haque Rubel

**Day of shocks**

FROM PAGE 17

Leighton Baines had curled in a free-kick to give Everton a fourth-minute lead but two Peter Crouch headers sealed the points for Pompey.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

Stoke dragged themselves out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win over second-from-bottom Middlesbrough. Ryan Shawcross's 84th-minute strike, predictably set up by one of Rory Delap's long throws, made the difference and ensured Newcastle kicked off their evening clash with Arsenal in the relegation zone.

Stoke's win ensured Blackburn finished the day in a worse position than they started it, despite a battling display to earn a 1-1 draw with West Ham at Wood Park, substitute Keith Andrews cancelling out Mark Noble's first half strike for the Hammers.

West Brom's chances of hauling themselves off the bottom look bleak after they could only draw 1-1 with Bolton, who were volleyed into a deserved lead by Matt Taylor, mid-way through the second half.

An own goal by Danny Shittu ensured a point for the Baggies but they remain adrift at the bottom with time rapidly running out.

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police AC emerged champions in the National Bank Dhaka Metropolitan Premier Division Volleyball League beating Power Development Board (PDB) 3-2 (23-25, 25-12, 25-21, 20-25, 15-12) in an exciting last league match at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

This is the maiden Premier League crown for the policemen who had earlier finished runners-up for three years in a row.

Monir of PDB and Shaheen of Police were jointly adjudged the best players of the league.

In the First Division League, Bhai Bhai Sangha emerged champions while

Nabajagarani Sangha finished runners-up. Fuad of Bhai Bhai and Rajib of Nabajagarani were named the best players.

Chairman of ATN Bangla Mahfuzur Rahman witnessed the last matches as chief guest and distributed prizes among winners.

**EXIM BANK HANDBALL**

Jessore mauled Kushtia 13-0 in the first semifinal match of the EXIM Bank 20th National Women's Handball Competition in the Madaripur Stadium.

In the second semifinal, Madaripur defeated Narail 13-5 and will play Jessore in the final today at the same venue.

## MUNSHIGANJ FOOTBALL

Sadar Upazila team clinched

the Munshiganj DC Cup football title beating Sirajdikhan Upazila team 5-3 in tiebreaker after the final match ended goalless in regulation time at the Munshiganj Stadium.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Khondakar Shawkat Hossain was the chief guest in the final and distributed prizes among winners.

## DIV II HOCKEY

Dilkusha SC notched their second successive victory in the Green Delta Metropolitan 2nd Division Hockey League beating Dhaka Young Star 6-1 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Skipper Khwaja Shabab struck twice while Siraj Monir, Al Amin, Mohammed Jewel and Khwaja Firoz Reza netted one goal each for the winners.

Sajib Das scored the consolation goal for the vanquished.

In the day's other match, Telgaon Agragami defeated

Udity Club 4-3 after leading the first-half 3-2 in a keenly contested match at the same venue.

## DIV III FOOTBALL

PWD Sporting Club emerged Group A champions to reach the final of the Citycell Metropolitan 3rd Division Football League beating Tongi KC by a solitary goal in a play-off at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Stadium at Kamalapur.

Farhad scored the match-winning for PWD in the 55th minute of the match, arranged to settle the group champions as both the teams had secured five points from three group encounters.

PWD will now play the final against Group B champions Swadheenata KS on Thursday to decide the league champions.

Both the finalists, PWD and Swadheenata have earned the right to play in the Metropolitan 2nd Division League from next season.

## Abahani, Gazi

FROM PAGE 17

bowlers in their last two big games against Mohammedan and Biman. But the holders still managed to go into the Super League with a four point advantage by winning both matches.

"True we lost both this season's encounters against Gazi but I believe this time we will turn the tables on them. We have been suffering from an injury problem but still I believe that we can win the match because we proved it by winning two big games without our main bowlers," said Mashrafe, who bowled off-spin in the last two games due to back pain.

"I think the batsmen must do their job properly," he added.

On the other hand newcomers Gazi Tank, who have 12 points from 11 matches in the first phase, lost the rhythm once they had confirmed their Super League berth but Ashraful believes that his side

is now ready to bounce back from the losing streak.

"We were a little bit relaxed after confirmation of the Super League but we are now looking forward to get back into the rhythm. There is no injury problem in the team and we are hopeful that we can continue our success against Abahani," said Ashraful whose side thrashed the holders by eight wickets in the Twenty20 match and registered a six-wicket victory in the 50-over match.

Ashraful expressed his satisfaction over the performance of the national batters in the first phase despite the fact only one batsman (Zunaid Siddiqui) made his way in the top-ten (with the national opener at number ten). Tigers vice-captain Mashrafe was however dissatisfied with the Tigers showing.

"At least four batsmen should be in the list. I think the national players were far away from the expectations," said Mashrafe.

## Security fears force IPL

FROM PAGE 17

teams against each other in the short-form Twenty20 format of the game, was eagerly awaited by millions of fans in India after its inaugural event last year proved a huge success.

IPL commissioner Lalit Modi said the 59 matches in the event would be scheduled so that they still fell at 4pm and 8pm in India, prime time for the massive cricket audience in this nation of more than one billion people.