



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns a ball against Jan Hernych of the Czech Republic in their quarterfinal match at the Swiss Indoors tournament in Basel on Thursday.

## Muktis win Philosophia chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad emerged unbeaten champions in the Philosophia 2nd Division Chess League after the ninth and final round of matches at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday.

Muktijoddha beat Asad Chess Club by straight 4-0 sets in the final round.

Nebula Chess Club became runners-up while Sharon Sporting Club finished third, these two places decided in a tie breaking play-off after both Nebula and Sharon finished on 13 points each.

Dragon Chess Club, Dania Power Chess Club, Asad Chess Club of Habiganj, Royal Electronics, Fire Service & Civil Defense Sports Club, Friends Chess Power finished fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth respectively.

## Khelaghar cricket body named

SPORTS REPORTER

Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Samity announced a nine-member cricket committee with Billal Hossain as chairman. Hasib Khan was named the general secretary of the committee.

Other members of the committee: Emran Hossain (vice chairman), Zahurul Islam Partho (joint secretary), Badrul Areefen Biraj (treasurer), Rezaul Karim Robin (secretary of welfare cum team manager), Sheikh Nadimuddin, Mornir Hossain secretaries of development, Abu Nahid M Marazul Islam, Sharif (secretaries of media and communication) and Shirajul Islam Sagor (secretary of event management).

## Feisty draw

FROM PAGE 17 Subair grounder off an Alfaz Ahmed cross went past goalkeeper Himel.

However, the game was halted for about 20 minutes following a decision taken by referee Tayeb Hasan, who ruled out Sheikh Russel's Omari's dying minute strike because of his foul on an Arambagh defender.

Sheikh Russel players and supporters protested the referee decision. However, the play resumed after both sides calmed down and referee completed the remaining a couple of minutes to finish the match.

Overin Chittagong, after the barren first half, Touhidul put hosts Chittagong Abahani ahead in the 75th minute and sealed the match one minute from time striking his second goal.



## Did U Know?

Squash historians assert that the game originated in the 19th century at Harrow School in London.

## Djokovic blanks Hernych

Tennis

AFP, Basel

Novak Djokovic clinched the most comprehensive victory of his career on Thursday when he humiliated Czech journeyman Jan Hernych 6-0, 6-0 to reach the Swiss Indoors quarterfinals.

The 52-minute "double-bagel" was the first for the Serb at the elite ATP level, bettering his 6-1, 6-0 win over Argentina's David Nalbandian in the Queen's Club semifinals in 2008, a rout which took four minutes less.

Djokovic also defeated Britain's Andy Murray by the same scoreline in Miami two years ago.

"I've never had one ('double bagel') before. It's really tough to analyse the match," said the world number four.

"I played enough to win, I had great service games and on his serve I never felt pressure. He didn't put up much of an effort. Anytime you win like this the opponent has to be playing really poorly."

"I know the crowd wanted him to win the last game, but I felt the need to win every game. There's no room for sympathy, we are professionals."

Second seed Djokovic saved three break points in the first set before stepping on the gas against a 59th-ranked opponent who had

claimed his first victory since the US Open in the first round.

Hernych's cause was not helped by committing 40 errors in the loss.

Djokovic improved to 68-18 on the season and now faces Swiss sixth seed Stanislas Wawrinka who defeated Finn Jarkko Nieminen in three sets.

"I'll try to go all the way. Since the Cincinnati final (against Roger Federer) I've been playing really well. I'm getting better and better," added Djokovic, the winner of last month's Beijing title.

Evgeny Korolev will line up against Roger Federer in the last eight after defeating Jeremy Chardy 6-4, 7-6 (7/1), a day after the Frenchman fired 24 aces to humble James Blake.

Meanwhile, compatriot and good friend Marco Chiudinelli kept national hopes high as he beat qualifying compatriot Michael Lammer 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, firing eight aces and breaking three times.

The result marks the second quarterfinal in six weeks for the Swiss after a similar performance in Bangkok.

Chiudinelli improved to 9-11 this season and will face France's Richard Gasquet.

Croat fourth seed Marin Cilic maintained his pace in his chase for one of two places open in the season-ending ATP finals, taking out Serb Victor Troicki 7-6 (9/7), 6-7 (8/10), 7-6 (8/6) in three hours.

## Afridi wishes more of the same

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Swashbuckling all-rounder Shahid Afridi Friday hoped his more responsible approach to batting and effective bowling help Pakistan defend the World Twenty20 title and win the 2011 World Cup.

"I am becoming more and more responsible with my batting," Afridi told AFP. "I want to help my team win the World Twenty20 again next year and then the bigger prize in the World Cup in two years time."

The 29-year-old hit a punishing 51-ball 70 -- his first one-day fifty for 33 one-day matches -- and then took 2-46 to help Pakistan beat New Zealand in the first match at Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

Often criticised for not turning his explosive potential into performance, Afridi is fast proving that notion wrong with a more responsible approach to the batting.

He hit back-to-back half-centuries in the semifinal and final of the World Twenty20 held in England in June -- one of which helped Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in the final.

Afridi was soon made Pakistan's captain for Twenty20 cricket after Younus

Khan decided not to carry on in the shortest form of the game -- a reward for his explosive performance.

And he has already set his target on the defence of World Twenty20 title in the West Indies coming April.

"Being the captain I have to do planning for the World Twenty20 because I want to win it once again, for my team, for my country and for my people who get inspired with our wins."

"We demand full match points in favour of us or the holding of a fresh match on cancellation of the previous result along with proper punitive punishment to umpires and match commissioners. Otherwise we will boycott the league," said Rezaul Karim Robin, the manager of the Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Samity.

"We were too victimized of bad umpiring during their first two matches against Surja Torun and holders Abahani as

"See there is no cricket back home so it is important that we keep winning and motivate the youth to take up the game which will keep the interest alive in our country," said Afridi.

Pakistan's chances of staging international cricket were dealt a severe blow when the Sri Lanka team bus was attacked in Lahore in March this year. Seven Sri Lankan players and their assistant coach were injured, besides eight people killed.

## Khelaghar allege

FROM PAGE 17 officials to call off the match though it seemed enough light was there and they waited for 31 minutes despite having called off the game.

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"We were too victimized of bad umpiring during their first two matches against Surja Torun and holders Abahani as

the umpires were biased and if the CCDM loves to see us in the relegation, then demote us directly, but not in this way," said vice chairman Emran Hossain.

"I saw the report of the match commissioner and nothing was found illegal. But still we will look into the matter and take initiatives if anything is found illegal as all participating teams are equal and we have no intent to give advantage to big clubs like Abahani, Mohammedan or Kalabagan," said Iqbal Yousuf Chowdhury Niku, CCDM member secretary.

"I have requested them to continue the play as that the CCDM would sit in a couple of days," he stated.

## Dav takes charge

FROM PAGE 17 much either. But as you saw, in IPL-2, the two teams that finished last and second-last respectively in the first edition ended up being the finalists (Deccan Chargers and Royal Challengers Bangalore). So perhaps, hope is the right word to use now. But I would like to know that hope will become a different word as we go along. That can happen."

Kolkata zeroed in on Whatmore after meeting a number of candidates, including John Wright, Richard Pybus, Dermot Reeve, Duncan Fletcher, Lalchand Rajput, WV Raman and Ashok Malhotra. The team management had informally sounded out Whatmore in June and followed it up with an interview in August at the Mumbai resi-

dence of the actor Shah Rukh Khan, who co-owns the Kolkata franchise with businessman Jay Mehta.

Whatmore's presentation to the Kolkata management was titled 'Let's Turn It Around'. "I just want to be the one that helps them turn their fortunes around. It will be a genuine effort."

Whatmore, 55, played seven Tests for Australia and brings to the IPL an impressive record. Apart from the 1996 World Cup title for Sri Lanka, he guided Bangladesh to two historic wins in the 2007 World Cup against India and South Africa, and also coached Lancashire to title wins in the NatWest and Sunday League in 1998. Last year, he was coach of the India Under-19 team that won the junior World Cup in Malaysia.

## Aussies hail Sachin

Cricket

AFP, Hyderabad

Australian captain Ricky Ponting on Friday lauded Indian master Sachin Tendulkar even as the injury-plagued world champions celebrated a brilliant one-day win.

The second-string Aussies, depleted by injuries to nine players, warded off Tendulkar's magical 175 off 141 balls to snatch a thrilling three-run win on Thursday night.

Tendulkar, faced with Australia's daunting total of 350-4, smashed 19 boundaries and four sixes in his 45th one-day century to bring India agonisingly close to an unexpected win.

Ponting, delighted at how his young team responded to the challenge to take a 3-2 lead in the seven-match series, praised Tendulkar's effort as "one of the great one-day innings" he had seen.

"When you get 175 in a one-day game, it's not very often you don't win," the Australian captain said.

"He's played a lot of good

innings against Australia over the years, but you don't see something like this every day.

"It was a terrific innings, especially when he lost a few wickets around him early. He hit almost every ball in the middle of the bat."

"His team needed him to play that way and he was outstanding. It was one of the great one-day innings that I've seen."

Tendulkar, 36, the world's leading batsman in both Test and one-day cricket, agreed it was one of his better innings, but was disappointed India fell short at the end.

"I would say it was one of my better ones, but we should have won," said Tendulkar.

"I was striking the ball pretty well. That we were chasing 351 meant there was constant pressure on us to keep the run-rate up. We managed to do that and took the game quite close."

Australia, depleted from the start of the tour due to injuries to one-day regulars Michael Clarke, Brad Haddin, Callum Ferguson and Nathan Bracken, have seen five more players return home with various niggles.

With Brett Lee, Peter Siddie,

James Hopes and Bracken missing and Mitchell Johnson rested for the game, Australia fielded a virtual second-string bowling attack -- and still won.

The tourists zoomed to the massive total after a first-wicket stand of 145 between Shaun Marsh, who hit a career-best 112, and Shane Watson (93) in excellent batting conditions.

"After everything that's happened over the last couple of weeks, for us to keep finding ways to win games says a lot about the team, a lot about the players and the way we go about it," a beaming Ponting said.

"I actually asked the guys for a little bit extra in this game, asked them to be really brave and to play the best form of cricket they possibly could and just back themselves at every opportunity."

"It was a great day for us. I can tell you that the guys were as excited as we have been for any win that we've had."

The final two matches in the riveting series will be played in Guwahati on Sunday and Mumbai on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD  
Scoreboard of the fifth one-day

international between India and Australia at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA: 350 for 4 in 50 overs (Watson 93, Marsh 112, Ponting 45, White 57)

INDIA

Sehwag c Bollinger b Hilfenhaus	38
Tendulkar c Hauritz b McKay	175
Gambhir c Hilfenhaus b McKay	8
Yuvraj c b Watson	9
Dhoni c Voges b McKay	6
Raina c Manou b Watson	59
Harbhajan c Manou b Watson	0
Jadeja run out	23
Kumar run out	9
Nehra c Hussey b Bollinger	1
Patel not out	2

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-8, nb-3) 17  
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs) 347  
Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-92, 3-126, 4-162, 5-299, 6-300, 7-333, 8-333, 9-335, 10-347.

Bowler O M R W

Hilfenhaus 10 0 72 1

Bollinger 10 0 75 1

McKay 10 0 59 3

Watson 8.4 0 47 3

Hauritz 5 0 43 0

Voges 3 0 19 0

Hussey 3 0 26 0

Result: Australia won by three runs and lead 7-match series 3-2.

Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.

## Coaches course certificates awarded

SPORTS REPORTER

The certificate awarding ceremony of the ACC (Asian Cricket Council)/CA (Cricket Australia) Level III Coach Education Course was held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President AHM Mustafa Kamal handed over certificates to the participants of this elite course for cricket coaches.

The Level III Coach Education Course is being held in Bangladesh for the first time. This is also the first Level III Course conducted by ACC/CA and runs from 03-09 November at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Some 29 participants representing 14 countries including former international cricketers Rashid Latif, Iqbal Sikander and Rashid Khan of Pakistan, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Rumesh Ratnayake, Piya Wijetunge of Sri Lanka and Aminul Islam, Khaled Mahmud, Monjurul Islam and Minhazul Abedin of Bangladesh are attending the course.

Other Bangladeshi participants are Nazmul Abedeen, Sarwar Imran, Mohammad Salah Uddin, Waheedul Ghani, Zafrul Ehsan and ESM Ashfaqul Islam.

There are seven course presenters from Australia -- Ross Turner, Jeff Lawson, Toot Byron, David Mann, Martin Glison, Alan Campbell and Graham House while Bangladesh head coach Jamie Siddons and fitness and conditioning coach Grant Trafford Loden will be guest presenters.

Coaches attending the course are expected to develop greater skills to share their expertise and to be able to provide quality feedback to other coaches. A considerable amount of learning will take place through the sharing of key information by coaches on the course and it is their own expertise and individual qualities that will help fellow coaches develop.

## McCullum

FROM PAGE 17 Pakistan at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday:

NEW ZEALAND	
McCullum b Gul	131
Redmond c Younis b Aamer	6
Gupthill c Aamer b Razzaq	62
Taylor b Afridi	0
Styris run out	9
Vettori c K Akmal b Razzaq	30
Broom lbw b Afridi	0
Oram not out	33
Mills c Latif b Gul	4
Bond not out	10
Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-3, nb-3)	18
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs)	303
Did not bat: Southee	

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-147, 3-147, 4-160, 5-214, 6-218, 7-274, 8-287.
Bowler O M R W
Aamer 10 0 64 1
Gul 10 0 59 2
Razzaq 10 0 60 2
Ajmal 10 0 59 0
Afridi 10 0 49 2

PAKISTAN: Butt, Latif, Younus, Yousuf, Malik, Afridi, K Akmal, Razzaq, Gul, Aamer, Ajmal.

## Pakistan pushes for thaw in India ties

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Signs are emerging that Pakistan is pushing to normalise cricketing relations with India, after the meeting last week between PCB chairman Ijaz Butt and officials within the BCCI in India and, in the absence of any likely bilateral series, it appears the IPL's third season could be the icebreaker. Pakistan's board has cleared its players for the tournament, reversing a decision it took for the second season, and has received inquiries from the IPL on the status of its players.

Pakistan players were not allowed to take part in this year's edition of the IPL after their own government refused to give them permission to travel to India. The decision was based primarily on security concerns and whether or not Pakistan's players would be safe in India in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attacks a year ago. The tournament was eventually shifted to South Africa for security reasons but Pakistan's players were still not allowed to take part.

However, the board is hoping the situation may be different this time round, indicating that permission has been granted to the players by the board and higher authorities. "The PCB has given permission to players to take part in the IPL," Butt told Cricinfo. "Abdul Razzaq recently approached me and he has been given permission as well as others. Lalit Modi emailed to ask what the status of our players regarding IPL was and, when I met him in India, I told him the players were available and the relevant authorities had given permission."

Whether they get the opportunity to take part this time, however, is not in the hands of the PCB or the Pakistan government for clearance will have to come from the Indian government. The first push for a thaw in cricketing relations from the Indian side has come from its IPL franchises, not bound by political and geographical considerations, seeking simply the best players to take the field.

Most IPL franchises were quick to seek the return of Pakistan players to the 2010 edition of the

lucrative Twenty20 league after Pakistan won the ICC World Twenty20 in June. Modi, the IPL commissioner and BCCI vice-president, subsequently clarified that the IPL had no problems in letting Pakistani players participate, subject to government clearance from both sides; even if Pakistan has given them permission, ultimately the decision will be made by the Indian government.

Eleven Pakistani players -- including Shahid Afridi and Umar Gul, the stars of Pakistan's World Twenty20 campaign -- were recruited by the Kolkata, Rajasthan, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bangalore franchises before the inaugural IPL. However, the franchises opted to retain the contracts of only four of them -- Akmal and Tanvir (Rajasthan), Misbahul Haq (Bangalore) and Gul (Kolkata) -- after it became clear that they would not be able to play in the second season of the league following the Mumbai attacks. But players such as Saeed Ajmal, Mohammad Aamer, Razzaq and Umar Akmal are likely to attract interest this time round, as is a revitalised Afridi who was dumped by the Deccan Chargers after a poor first season with them.

That is as far as the door between the two boards will be nudged open for now. Hectic schedules for both teams means that it is unlikely there will be a bilateral series between them till at least 2011, Butt said, confirming what the BCCI said last week. "Right now it is too premature to give a time frame for a return to bilateral ties. Schedules are tight for both of us till 2011 and an appropriate window has to be found for the series. It will come out over the passage of time," he said.

Though it is still over a year away, the 2011 World Cup on the subcontinent could play a critical role in deciding which way the relationship goes thereafter. Concerns have been raised over whether or not Pakistan will play any of its matches in India; currently they are scheduled to play most of their games in Sri Lanka, but if they go far, then playing in India will be unavoidable. Butt said no discussions on the topic had taken place yet and was unwilling to comment on the possibility of Pakistan playing in India then, but it is likely to become a significant issue over the next year.

## Agassi cries for compassion

Tennis

AFP, New York

Andre Agassi has pleaded for compassion from critics over his taking of crystal methamphetamine, saying he "needed help" to fight depression in 1997.

CBS released excerpts from Agassi's interview in the "60 Minutes" programme Thursday with the entire story to be aired Sunday night regarding his admission of taking methamphetamine in an upcoming memoir as well as other aspects of his life and career.

Agassi became emotional when interviewer Katie Couric read him the words of Martina Navratilova, who compared Agassi to Roger Clemens, a star baseball pitcher who has denied wrongdoing despite links to performance-enhancing drugs.

"It's what you don't want to hear," Agassi said. "I would hope with that would come some compassion that maybe this person doesn't need condemnation. Maybe this person could stand a little help."

"Because that was at a time in my life when I needed help. I had a problem, and there might be many other athletes out there that test positive for recreational drugs that have a

problem. So I would ask for some compassion."

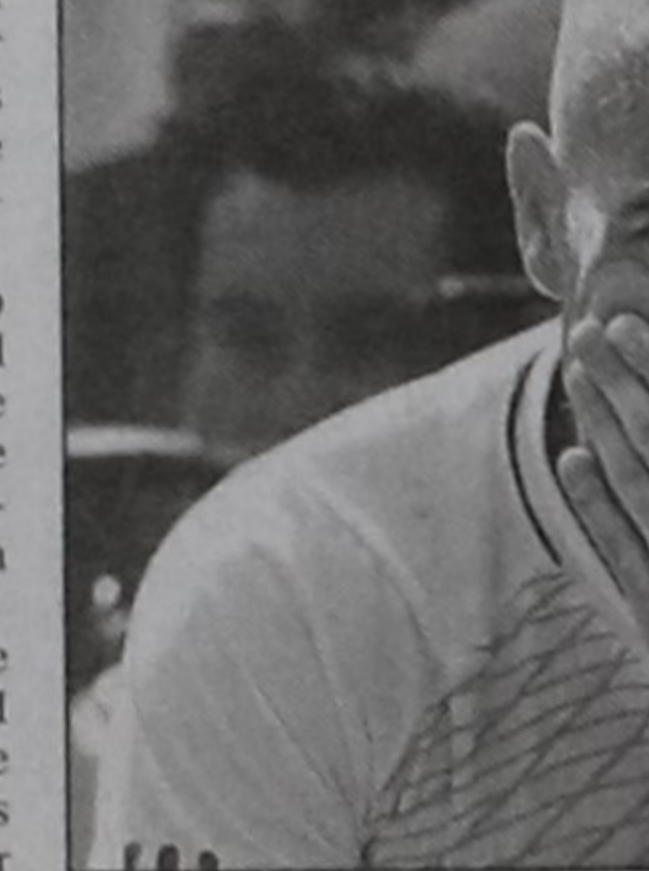
The former world number one's new book, "Open", will be published next week.

Agassi said he is uncertain how the revelations will impact how he is regarded or whether he belongs in the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

"I don't know what the ramifications are," Agassi said. "I had way more to lose by telling this story in its full transparency than I had to gain."

"The price that that comes with is the cost that I've assumed and I'm OK because the part that I worry and think more about is who this may help."

"It was a gift. I go out with my wife now and I hit balls and I can enjoy it."



ANDRE AGASSI