



Serbia's Novak Djokovic (R) kisses the Swiss Indoors ATP trophy after defeating world number one Roger Federer (L) of Switzerland in Basel yesterday.

Terry heads

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By that stage, United were looking the more likely winners with Rooney increasingly troubling the home side's back four.

A neat combination with Valencia on the right enabled the England forward to send a low drive inches wide, minute before he unleashed a curling shot that Cech clawed to safety as it dipped towards the top corner.

It was Chelsea however who were to have the final word after the outstanding Darren Fletcher was adjudged, debatably, to have fouled Ashley Cole close to the left touchline.

A United defence that had been scarcely troubled all afternoon made a hash of defending Lampard's inswinging delivery and Terry was unmarked as he rose to glance the ball past van der Sar.

Opinions

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"The most vulnerable aspect of the Dido squad is central defending position as Al Amin and Rezaul Karim Reza are much too inexperienced," said Maruf.

"Dido should have picked a couple of experienced players like Rajani and Ariful, but he did not. Besides, Biblob should have been in the squad as Aminul is still nursing his injury," said the Mohammedan coach adding that the frontline has no problem.

Maruf said, "No one can say Bangladesh will make a bad result, let's see how they play because the team performance depends on coach's approach, philosophy, strategy, tactics and plan."

Brothers Union coach and former national player Wasim Iqbal also said that Dido should have picked a couple of experienced central defenders as the experienced and fit players are always needed in the central defending position.

"Look back at history, despite being at the fag end of their careers Kasier Hamid, Monem Munna were picked up by the foreign coaches. Besides, the big teams like Mohammedan and Abahani still rely on veteran defenders like Rajani, Sujani, Arif because they have the ability to tackle the adverse situation and I think the national team may face crisis in that place during the SAFF Games," said Wasim.

Wasim prefers to wait until Bangladesh launches their SAFF campaign rather than make any early comment.

Abahani manager and former national player Satyajit Das Rupu was, however, against Dido's choice.

"As SAFF Championship is our World Cup, so we should go all out with all our strength. Who will take responsibly if Bangladesh is eliminated from early stage and if I was a member of national team management committee, I would not accept Dido's notion," said the AFCB licensed coach Rupu.



Did U Know?

AC Milan is the only Italian club to win the league by going through an entire season (1991-92) without a loss.

Novak dethrones Roger

Tennis

AFP, Basel

Novak Djokovic overcame Roger Federer on the world number one's home ground Sunday, carving out a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory to win the Swiss Indoors title.

It was a Basel debut to remember for the 22-year-old world number three as he turned the momentum in his direction in a 24-minute game of the opening set which featured five break points for Federer and required six set points for the Serb to take the early lead.

Federer, the winner of the last three titles here, got back in harness in the second set through an early break on the way to levelling the final.

But when Djokovic got up a double break in the third, the Swiss top seed was unable to turn the tide.

"It's disappointing to lose a final at home," said Federer. "I tried hard, I was just outplayed."

"I was always down in the score and every time I got a momentum shift he would break me again. I could never get any momentum. Things did not go my way at all today."

"It was not like the 2007 US Open final (where he beat Djokovic). There I had more offense from

the baseline and was able to dictate.

"But there are no excuses. Novak played tough and saved a ton of break points. I needed to play much better on attack."

It was Federer's first loss at home in Basel since the second round in 2003.

When he returned in 2006, he claimed three trophies in a row until Djokovic ended that run in a two-hour upset.

Djokovic won his fifth of 14 career matches the Swiss.

"I played the best match of the week when I really needed it," said Djokovic, playing in his first indoor final of the year and winner of a first indoor title since the Masters Cup in Shanghai last November.

"The form came at the right moment." "Winning in Basel makes my success even more special. We all know how well Roger plays at home -- he has won here three times. I'm extremely happy with how I approached the match and my strategy."

Federer and Djokovic will play the Paris Masters next week, the final event of the ATP regular season.

They have both already qualified for the season-ending World Tour Finals in London from November 22, where seven men will fight for two remaining spots in Paris.

Italy lift Fed Cup

Tennis

AFP, Reggio Calabria

Italy claimed their second Fed Cup title in three years as Flavia Pennetta cruised to a 7-5, 6-2 win against American teenager Melanie Oudin on the red clay here on Sunday.

The victory in just under an hour and a half gave Italy an unassailable 3-0 lead in what proved to be a damp squib of a contest following the withdrawals of Serena and Venus Williams from the American team.

Pennetta and Francesca Schiavone had both recorded simple straight-set victories against Alexa Glatch and Oudin respectively on Saturday as the visitors paid for coming to the final with their hopes resting on the shoulders of an 18-year-old and a 20-year-old ranked 132 in the world.

It was the first time Italy had beaten the USA -- who have a record 17 Fed Cup titles -- in 10 ties and the first time they won the title on home soil.

Italy's only previous Fed Cup success came in Belgium three years ago while they lost the final in Russia in 2007.

Team captain Corrado Barazzutti pulled no punches in his reaction.

"These girls have re-written the history of Italian tennis," he enthused. "I believe they are one of the best ever teams in Italian sport."

"The first win (in 2006) was incredible but the second, at home, in front of our fans, is beyond all limits. These girls are amazing."

For Pennetta this was the ideal culmination to her best ever season in which she became the first Italian woman to reach the world's top 10 -- she's currently ranked 11.

"It's the perfect end to a great season. Now I can go on holiday even more happy. I would have been happy anyway but now it's perfect," she said.

The first set was competitive although Pennetta broke a nervous Oudin in the first game of the match.

Not known for her serve, the Italian then used that weapon to keep her nose in front,

serving two aces in the sixth game and then saving the first break point she faced in the eighth with another ace.

"In the beginning we were both a bit nervous, it wasn't easy to play first on the Sunday," added Pennetta.

"But I think my serve was working very well today. I was pretty focused on my game, I didn't make many mistakes and I played every point, that's the key."

However, she faltered for the first time in the match when serving for the set at 5-4, where she made three unforced errors to be broken despite leading 30-0.

But Oudin immediately handed her back the advantage with a double fault on break point and Pennetta comfortably served out the set.

Oudin held serve at the start of the second and moved ahead 40-15 on Pennetta's serve but the 27-year-old saved the first break point with yet another ace.

A service winner gave her game point and then a backhand winner down the line ensured she stayed in control.

Oudin then had a 30-0 lead on her serve but her inexperience told when she let herself be distracted by a shout from the crowd during a point, yelling "shut up" at the stands after losing that.

She followed that up with two backhand errors and was broken three times in a row after that.

"It's really hard playing in front of an entire crowd that's cheering against you and yelling during the points," she said.

"Just saying things that I definitely could understand right before I was serving. And I tried not to let it get to me, but it's always in the back of my head."

Her only respite was a break back at 1-4 down but Pennetta was untroubled and she sealed the win on a backhand winner.

The final singles match was scrapped but Italy completed a clean sweep as Roberto Vinci and Sara Erani beat Liezel Huber and Vania King 11-9 in a third set super tie-break, meaning Vinci has still never lost in 14 Fed Cup doubles matches.

Taibu shines in defeat

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made 35 before being out in an innings where many Proteas could have survived longer had they exercised greater care.

Left-arm orthodox spinner Price captured the wickets of Smith, De Villiers and unimpressive Mark Boucher (18) on a slow pitch, but received little support with Chris Mpofu (0-70) especially expensive.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Willowmoore Park on Sunday: SOUTH AFRICA: 295 for 5 in 50 overs (Amla 80, Smith 35, De Villiers 51, Petersen 39, Morkel 50 not out; Price 3-44)

ZIMBABWE

Vermeulen c Amla b Tsotsobe 8 Chibhabha lbw b McLaren 21

Masakadza c Boucher b Steyn 11 Taylor c Boucher b McLaren 2 Taibu not out 103 Chigumbura b Steyn 4 Matsikenyeri b McLaren 86 Cremer not out 1 Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-8) 14 Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs) 250 Did not bat: Utseya, Price, Mpofu.

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-35, 3-40, 4-44, 5-48, 6-236.

Bowler O M R W Steyn 10 0 51 2 Tsotsobe 8 0 41 1 Langeveldt 8 0 33 0 McLaren 10 0 51 3 Botha 10 1 41 0 Morkel 4 0 27 0 Result: South Africa won by 45 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Tatenda Taibu.

WC fixtures

FROM PAGE 17

organising committee, said he looked forward to a great tournament.

"The sub-continent offers some great facilities for the cricketers, spectators, sponsors and media, with some brand new stadia to be built and others to be upgraded," said Pawar.

"The schedule will allow the venues to focus on the task at hand to plan and implement their preparations, and ensure they are ready to welcome the world to this beautiful, historic and cricket-loving region in 2011."

Meanwhile, the next central organising committee (COC) meeting will be held in Dhaka on January 9 next year which will be followed by trophy unveiling ceremony.

Team leaves for WCG final

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cyber games team are heading off to Chengdu province of China on the 10th of November to take part in the World Cyber Games 2009. The eight-member team will be led by Mohammed Irfan Hussain who is the country manager for the World Cyber Games.

The participants from Bangladesh qualified through a competition staged earlier this year. Eight winners in four different games (FIFA09, Guitar Hero, WarCraft, Counter-Strike) qualified from among 1100 contestants and have been chosen to represent Bangladesh in the biggest gaming tournament of the world, which boats participants from 80 countries from around the world. The opening ceremony will be held on the 11th of November while the first round of games will be held on the 12th to 14th November.

Zim U-19s arrive

SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwean under-19 cricket team arrived in the capital on Sunday night to play five-match ODI series against their Bangladeshi counterparts.

The series will begin in Khulna on November 13.

The tourists will open their tour with a one-day warm-up match against Bangladesh XI on Wednesday at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna, which will also host the first three one-day matches on Nov 13, 14 and 16 respectively.

Zimbabwe then travel to Jessore to play the two remaining matches at Shamsul Huda Stadium on Nov 19 and 20. Zimbabwe will leave here for home on Nov 21.

Pepsi-DRU cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Seven teams won their respective matches on the opening day of the Pepsi-DRU Cricket tournament at Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Channel I (101/0) defeated Financial Express (69 all out) by 32 runs, New Nation (63/2) beat Bhoror Dak (62/3) by three wickets, Amader Somoy (75/2) beat New Age (72/2) by three runs, Kaler Kantha (55/0) thrashed Inqilab (53/1) by five wickets, UNB (58/2) beat Karatoa (46/4) by 12 runs.

Manab Jamin, INB got walkover against Amader Somoy and Amar Desh respectively.

Murray takes Valencia title

AFP, Valencia

British top seed Andy Murray defeated Russia's Mikhail Youzhny 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Valencia ATP title and capture his sixth trophy of the season.

The world number four took just 69 minutes to see off the unseeded Russian and wrap-up the 14th title of his career.

Zaheer braces for return

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Zaheer Khan has recovered well from his shoulder injury and, having featured in Twenty20 matches during the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament and a Ranji Trophy fixture, is expected to be back for India when the selectors meet on Tuesday to pick the Test squad to play Sri Lanka. VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid will duly take their places in the middle order, while Harbhajan Singh and Amit Mishra are likely to retain their spinning roles. Yuvraj Singh is also expected to feature at No. 6 in the batting line-up, but it's the fast bowlers that will throw up a debate.

Including Ashish Nehra in the Test side is going to be tempting. It is also a risk. Nehra has done well after making his ODI return, but do the selectors want to risk his fitness in

the longest format of the game? If Nehra does make the transition, he will replace one of the two back-up fast bowlers that went to New Zealand: Dhawal Kulkarni and L. Balaji. India will not need a 16-member squad, so just one reserve fast bowler should do. But even if Nehra is not picked, somebody like Sudeep Tyagi might stand a better chance than Balaji and Kulkarni. Going by how Ishant Sharma was persisted with in the ODIs, he is likely to keep his Test place, along with Munaf Patel.

Dinesh Karthik was the substitute middle-order batsman in New Zealand, where he doubled up as a reserve wicketkeeper. Here in India, Dhoni might not need back-up behind the stumps. There is another decision for the selectors to make: whether to retain Karthik in a role similar to the one in New Zealand, or draft in a specialist middle-order batsman like S. Badrinath.

Inter-Private University football

SPORTS REPORTER

A hat-trick from Birol powered North South University to a massive 6-0 win over University of Asia Pacific in the Mentors' Inter-Private University Football Tournament at Army Stadium yesterday.

Apart from Birol's treble, Izaz struck a brace while Monayem netted one for the winners.

In the day's other match, Northern University recorded a 2-1 win over Brac University. Northern University went ahead, courtesy of an own goal in the seventh minute of the game, but Brac University bit back with a 51-minute strike from Daniel. Later, Babu struck the decisive goal in the 68th minute to ensure victory for Northern University.

Gono University take on Presidency University while Northern University play against East West University today.

Kiwis pegged

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hitting three sixes and six boundaries during his 47-ball half-century before the innings fell apart.

It was pacesman Umar Gul who provided the breakthrough, removing opener Aaron Redmond caught off Mohammad Amir for 21. This was Gul's 100th wicket in 67 one-day internationals.

Ajmal then came into his own, removing Martin Gupthill (eight), Ross Taylor (44), Daniel Vettori (15) and Jacob Oram (two) to improve on his best one-day figures of 2-16 against the West Indies.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the New Zealand innings in the third one-day international against Pakistan at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday:

NEW ZEALAND				
McCullum c & b Malik	76			
Redmond c Aamer b Gul	21			
Gupthill c Younus b Ajmal	8			
Taylor lbw b Ajmal	44			
Styris run out	14			
Vettori lbw b Ajmal	15			
Broom lbw b Afridi	0			
Oram lbw b Ajmal	2			
Mills c Ajmal b Aamer	4			
Bond not out	11			
Southee c Razaq b Aamer	4			
Extras: (lb-6, w-6)	12			

Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 211
Fall of wickets: 1-72, 2-88, 3-138, 4-164, 5-187, 6-188, 7-190, 8-194, 9-198.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aamer	8.3	0	41	2
Gul	8	1	47	1
Razaq	3	0	19	0
Ajmal	10	0	33	4
Afridi	10	0	33	1
Malik	7	0	32	1

PAKISTAN: Butt, Latif, Younus, Malik, Akmal, Afridi, Akmal, Razaq, Gul, Aamer, Ajmal.

BFF media committee formed

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday formed a nine-member media committee with Golam Rabbani Helal as its chairman. BFF vice president Kazi Nabil Ahmed was named as vice chairman.

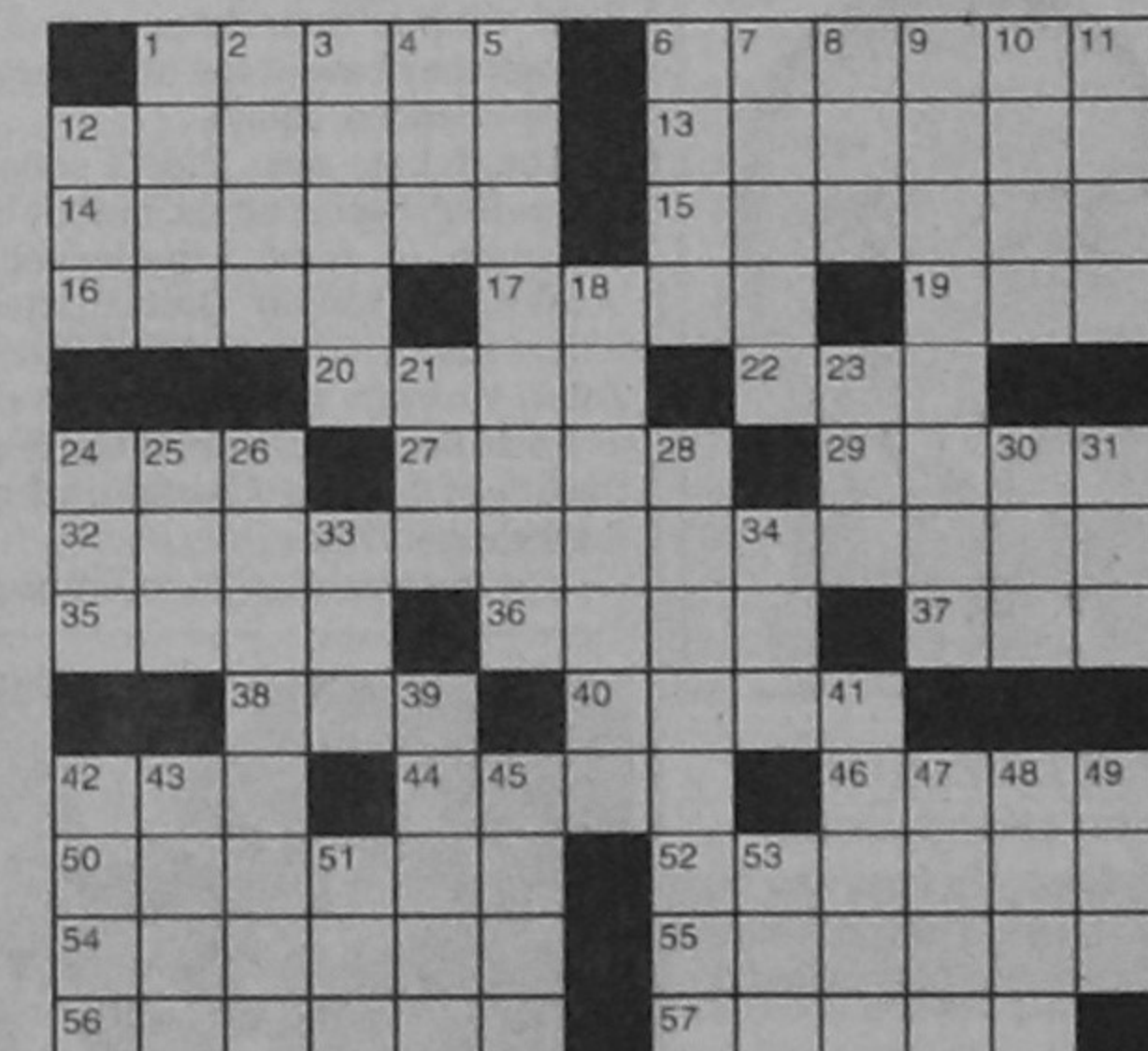
Other members are: Anwarul Haq Helal, Fazlur Rahman Babul, Amirul Islam Babu, Mahfuza Akther Kiron, Abu Hasan Chowdhury Prince, Moniza Rahman and Rakib M Fakrul.



The Bangladesh team to participate in the World Cyber Games 2009 to be held in Chengdu, China pose for photographs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		38 To the — degree	2 Gaelic	24 Maxwell Smart, e.g.
1 Alabama	40 Laugh-a-minute	3 Scottish landowner		
6 Soda shoppe supply	42 Laugh-a-minute	4 Wire measure	25 Perfume label word	
12 Tune	44 Expel	5 "— Goes"	26 Bickered	
13 Lawrence's territory	46 Scandinavian city	6 Ganges wrap	28 White wine and soda	
14 With little effort	50 Wolves, at times	7 Former Mississippi senator	30 Ball-bearing item	
15 Cure	52 Under the influence, with "out"	8 Aries	31 Wapiti	
16 Watchful one	54 Threatening comment	9 Suspension	32 Potent stick	
17 Doppelgänger	55 Motor	10 Broad	33 Latin 101 word	
19 "Absolutely"	56 Chute's opposite	11 Puts into words	34 Equine	
20 Capital of Qatar	57 Takes five	12 Witness	35 Ice bucket accessory	
22 Afternoon social		13 Roams	36 Sweater material	
24 Wield a needle	DOWN	21 Non-gun link	37 "Slumdog Millionaire" locale	
27 Flippers	1 Remain	23 Listener	45 Addict	
29 Opening stake	Solution time: 27 mins.			
32 Integral component	Y A W B A L M Z O N E			
35 Chinese dollar	O N O E V E R E D E N			
36 Bacterium	G O O D Y E A R P E W S			
37 "A mouse"†	T I N D O O R T I M P			
	T I N T G O O G O L			
	A N T E D A H A R O E			
	G E A R I N T M A Z E			
	O R R B M I F O Y E R			
	G O O F U P N A N Y			
	G O S U A L T H E A			
	J I N X N O O S E E G G			
	O P T E N A M E M A E			
	G O B S S T I R I D S			



CRYPTOQUIP

Y K O D Z T B K Y Q W O Z J
Y H E Z O T Y M C O C O U O H T F R
M C D H G O B Q D H T D R U K D H Q
Y B K Y H G Y B Q F H C J D
E F W O Z Q B F Z J

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A CERTAIN HERB
IS USED IN MAKING MEALS FOR THE DOG
SHELTER, COULD THAT BE KENNEL FENNEL?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T