



## Did U Know?

Sunderland defender Anton Ferdinand almost gave up football to become a singer.



### Phil Tufnell

(Former England left-arm spinner)

"This is the hardest work I have ever done. If I had trained as hard as I do now for my cricket, I would have been a much better cricketer."

On rehearsing for his big day on reality show Strictly Come Dancing.



### Ten Sports

South Africa v England  
Second T20  
Live from 7:30pm

## Anjali didn't even know who he was

PTI, New Delhi

For all the fame he achieved even before the start of his international career, Sachin Tendulkar's wife Anjali couldn't recognise him when they first met in 1990 and she says the batting maestro perhaps fell for her lack of cricket knowledge.

"I first met him at the Mumbai airport when he returned from his first tour of England in 1990, after scoring his maiden Test ton. In fact, when I first saw him at the airport, I didn't even know who he was. It was purely by accident!" Anjali, who married Tendulkar in 1995, said.

"I was there to pick up my mother and Sachin was arriving with the Indian team. That's where we saw each other for the first time... we had a courtship of five years and got married in 1995.

## Under-19s win again

SPORTS REPORTER

Another day, another victory for the Bangladesh Under-19 cricket side, their second consecutive win over touring Zimbabwe Under-19s in as many days. But the margin of victory this time was the slimmest as they got home chasing 194 with a single wicket left and 3.4 overs not bowled.

It was an all-round performance from pacer Abul Hossain and some rearguard action that saved the day for the hosts.

The visitors were given a steady start, after being put in to bat, by their two opening batsmen. They looked on course for a big total at 126 for two in 34 overs. Mazharidza, as has been so far on the tour, was the mainstay of their batting with a knock of 42 from 49 deliveries. But then Abul Hossain busted into the attack with a fiery spell as he ripped through the middle and lower orders. He got five wickets, three of them clean bowled, conceding 26 in 9.3 overs to skittle out the opposition for 193 in 49.3 overs.

The reply from Bangladesh couldn't have started any worse as they lost three of their

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

# K'bagan winning

## Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Kalabagan continued their impressive run of form in the Premier Cricket League when they defeated Bangladesh Biman by 20 runs yesterday to dump the national flag carriers to their second consecutive defeat. In the other matches of the day, Old DOHS downed Khelaghar to their sixth defeat in six matches beating them by 3 wickets, while BKSP edged Victoria in a thrilling encounter by 3 runs.

Winning the toss at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Kalabagan skipper Javed Omar opted to bat and his batsmen didn't disappoint him, as they put on a challenging total of 219 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their allotted 50 overs.

The skipper himself played a patient knock of 42 from 89 balls, though the best knock of the innings came from the bat of Zubair Ahmed who hit five boundaries to remain not out on 66 in 72 balls.

Replying to this big total, Biman were in early trouble as they lost both their openers within the first three overs. Biman's Sri Lankan recruit Jehan Mubarak tried to resurrect the innings with the help of left-hander Mehrab Hossain. But Mehrab's untimely run-out and the departure of Biman skipper Tushar Imran two balls later meant they were in deeper trouble. Mubarak batted gainfully as he kept on building the innings but found little

support from others and when he fell for 65 with the score on 169 for nine, Biman were as good as out of running. A flurry of boundaries from number eleven Talha Jubair (20 not out) could only reduce the margin of defeat.

Wasim Nayeem put on an all-round show to help Old DOHS to a three-wicket victory over a hapless Khelaghar at the BKSP ground. Bowling first, Wasim Nayeem took two important wickets as he got the top-scorer Aslam Ali (66) bowled and Ashraful Nobi (26) leg-before-wicket to restrict Khelaghar to 203 all out in 48.45 overs.

Nayeem then came to open the batting and laid the platform for victory with a fine knock of 58 off 71 deliveries that consisted seven boundaries. The other opener, Fazle Rabbi got 31 while number three Rumman Ahmed scored a run-a-ball 54 to guide them to victory. A few late dismissals couldn't help Khelaghar to evade their sixth reverse in as many matches.

An enthralling game at Fatullah between two minnows saw BKSP edge Victoria by three runs. Batting first, BKSP put up a decent total of 202 in 49.4 overs losing all their wickets, thanks to fifties from Shoumya Sarker and Asif Ahmed.

Victoria skipper Mohammad Sharif once again stood out as he took five wickets with Abul Bashar chipping in with two. Bashar later turned in an excellent batting performance and almost single-handedly won the game for Victoria. But three quick wickets in

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR  
Bangladesh Biman lower-order batsman Tarek Aziz looks back at his disturbed furniture during their Premier League match against Kalabagan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

# Pakistan's clean sweep

## Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan overcame a late order flurry from New Zealand to win the second Twenty20 international by seven runs at Dubai Stadium here on Friday, taking the two-match series 2-0.

Teenager Umer Akmal lifted Pakistan to 153-5 before they survived a late charge by Brendon McCullum (47) and Scott Styris (43) to maintain their 100-percent record against New Zealand.

Pakistan, who won the first match by 49 runs here on Thursday, have now won all four Twenty20 matches against the Black Caps.

McCullum and Styris kept New Zealand in the hunt during a 66-run partnership as New Zealand needed 51 off the last five overs and 38 in the last three.

But once big-hitting McCullum holed out to off-

spinner Saeed Ajmal in the 19th over, New Zealand's task of making 18 in the last over proved too difficult.

McCullum hit three fours and six off 41 balls.

Paceman Umar Gul dismissed Styris off the last ball to finish with 2-29. Styris's 33-ball knock had two fours and as many sixes.

Styris and McCullum repaired the innings after New Zealand were 66-3 after 11 overs.

BJ Watling (seven), Martin Guptill (17) and Ross Taylor (13) fell in quick succession as Pakistan kept the pressure on from the start.

Pakistan's T20 captain Shahid Afridi said the series win meant a lot after the defeat in the preceding one-day series defeat.

"The Twenty20 victory was the much-needed win for us," said Afridi. "We wanted to bring back smiles on the faces of our fans who were hurt after ODI defeat, so I am very pleased at it."

McCullum, who stood in place of injured Daniel Vettori, said he was satisfied with the performance against the world champions.

"We gave them a run for their money. I knew that even 18 off the last over was possible, but Pakistan is a dangerous side and can do unbelievable things," said McCullum.

Earlier, Pakistan were lifted by Umer Akmal's maiden half-century which kept this team in the hunt for a good total despite paceman Ian Butler's 3-28.

Akmal, whose 49-ball knock included five boundaries and a six, added 45 for the third wicket with Afridi (22) after Pakistan lost the quick wickets of Imran Nazir (19) and Kamran Akmal (26) to Butler.

Butler then dismissed Shoaib Malik (seven) and James Franklin captured Abdul Razaq (nought) before Umer and Fawad Alam

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP  
Pakistan top-order batsman Umer Akmal sets off for a run during the second and final Twenty20 international against New Zealand in Dubai on Friday. Akmal hit a maiden half-century to guide Pakistan to a seven-run win and 2-0 series victory.

# Eng edge SA in rain

## Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Eoin Morgan played a stunning innings of 85 not out off 45 balls as England won a rain-affected first Twenty20 international against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

England piled up 202 for six and won by one run according to the Duckworth-Lewis method when rain stopped play with South Africa on 127 for three after 13 overs.

The left-handed Morgan and captain Paul Collingwood shrugged off a poor start and launched a savage assault on the South African bowlers in a fourth wicket partnership of 98 off 55 balls.

South African skipper Graeme Smith and Loots

Bosman batted equally aggressively in an opening stand of 97 off 55 balls which threatened to take the game away from England.

But South Africa lost three wickets in successive overs as rain started to fall.

With both teams consulting the Duckworth-Lewis charts, Collingwood brought on James Anderson, his best bowler, in the 13th over. AB de Villiers and Albie Morkel could manage only six runs and were one short of the par score when rain ended the match at the end of the over.

"It's a shame for the spectators that the game didn't go down to the full 40 overs but it was a great performance by the guys tonight," said Collingwood.

"It was still a good spectacle, it was very, very close but thankfully we came

out on top."

South Africa skipper Smith hoped to level the two-match series on Sunday at Centurion.

"England came out and batted supremely well, the Collingwood and Morgan partnership really took the game to us," he said.

"We fought back nicely with the bat in the beginning. It's a disappointing way to finish but it bodes well for a good game on Sunday."

Collingwood hit 57 off 32 balls, with three fours and four sixes, while Morgan slammed seven fours and five sixes, including one hit off Dale Steyn that sailed over the square leg boundary and out of the ground, landing in a block of flats.

England lost Joe Denly to the first ball of the match, bowled by Charl Langeveldt, and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

# Tendulkar only 16th

PTI, New Delhi

Sachin Tendulkar will become the 16th player in the history of cricket to have an international career spanning more than 20 years on Sunday but the champion batsman is still well short of former English all-rounder Wilfred Rhodes's mark.

Tendulkar, who completes 20 years in international cricket tomorrow, occupies the 16 place in the longest Test careers list.

In his Test career spanning 19 years 143 days till date, he has represented India in a record 159 Tests.

Tendulkar will reach the milestone of 20 years and one day when he comes out to play against Sri Lanka in the first Test of the three-match series in Ahmedabad on Monday.

# U-19 booters return home

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-19 football team returned home yesterday after finishing fourth in the group stages of the AFC U-19 Championship qualification round.

Bangladesh went down to South Korea (5-0), Vietnam (1-0), hosts Thailand (3-0) before winning against Macao (3-2)

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5

# Nadal sets up Djokovic showdown

AFP, Paris

Second seed Rafael Nadal set up a Paris Masters semifinal clash with third seed Novak Djokovic on Friday by defeating title-holder Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-5, 7-5.

Djokovic had earlier defeated Robin Soderling of Sweden 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 in the first of the day's quarterfinals to reach the last four in Paris for the first time.

The losses for Tsonga and Soderling meant that Spain's Fernando Verdasco was assured of the eighth and final spot in the November 22-29 ATP Tour Finals in London.

The other players qualified for that are Nadal, Djokovic, Roger Federer, Andy Murray, Juan Martin del Potro, Andy Roddick and Nikolay Davydenko.

Frenchman Tsonga was seeking to become the first man to successfully defend the prestigious Bercy title that traditionally brings down the curtain on the ATP regular season.

And he got off to a storming start in front of a packed Bercy Stadium by holding his serve to love and then procuring two break points on Nadal's following serve.

But he was unable to convert any of those as the gritty Nadal, who saved five match points against Nicolas Almagro in the third round on Wednesday and narrowly escaped against Tommy Robredo on Thursday, hung on to level.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

# Yousuf wants unity

## Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Newly-appointed Pakistan captain Mohammad Yousuf called for unity from his side on Saturday ahead of their tough three-Test tour of New Zealand, saying it would be a double test for his players -- on and off the field.

"My main target is to unite the team because our religion also teaches us to unite for a cause and the New Zealand tour will be a tough task for us," Yousuf told AFP.

The 35-year-old, who converted to Islam from Christianity four years back, replaced Younus Khan who opted to rest following Pakistan's 2-1 defeat in the one-day series against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi earlier this week.

Pakistan won the two-match Twenty20 series 2-0 on Friday. The team flies to New Zealand from here on Sunday where the first Test opens in Dunedin on November 25.

Younus blamed lack of unity and control from the players as the reasons behind his decision to take "time out" -- but Yousuf believes the team members are professional enough to regroup for a tough tour.

"I am sure all the players realise their duties," said Yousuf, who has previously captained Pakistan in four Tests and three one-day internationals. "For me all the players are equal and I will treat them on an equal basis."

"We will definitely miss Younus as batsman but I have asked the selection committee to bring in Misbahul Haq as replacement

who has the experience to handle the conditions in New Zealand."

Misbah was dropped for the limited over series against New Zealand in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and could not find a place in the Test squad as well.

Yousuf said seaming conditions in New Zealand will test his batsmen.

"Conditions in New Zealand will be difficult and with the ball seaming a lot it will be a real test for our batsmen but I am sure that the players will stand up and play to their potential," said Yousuf.

Yousuf said handling the pressure will be crucial on the tour.

"We know New Zealand will be tough in their conditions, and with a world-class bowler in Daniel Vettori they will put a lot of pressure on us so it will be a matter of how to handle pressure," said Yousuf, himself a world class batsman.

Yousuf praised Pakistan's bowling attack, saying it has the capacity to bowl New Zealand out twice in a Test.

"With Mohammad Asif back in the Test team we have a bowler who uses the new ball effectively and can be dangerous in New Zealand," said Yousuf of Asif who missed the UAE series as a result of being deported last year.

The 26-year-old bowler was detained at Dubai airport after he was found in possession of a banned substance. He was later deported.

"We also have Mohammad Aamir who is coming up fast, Umar Gul, Abdul Rauf and two quality spinners in Danish Kaneria and Saeed Ajmal, so we will be well equipped to face New Zealand."

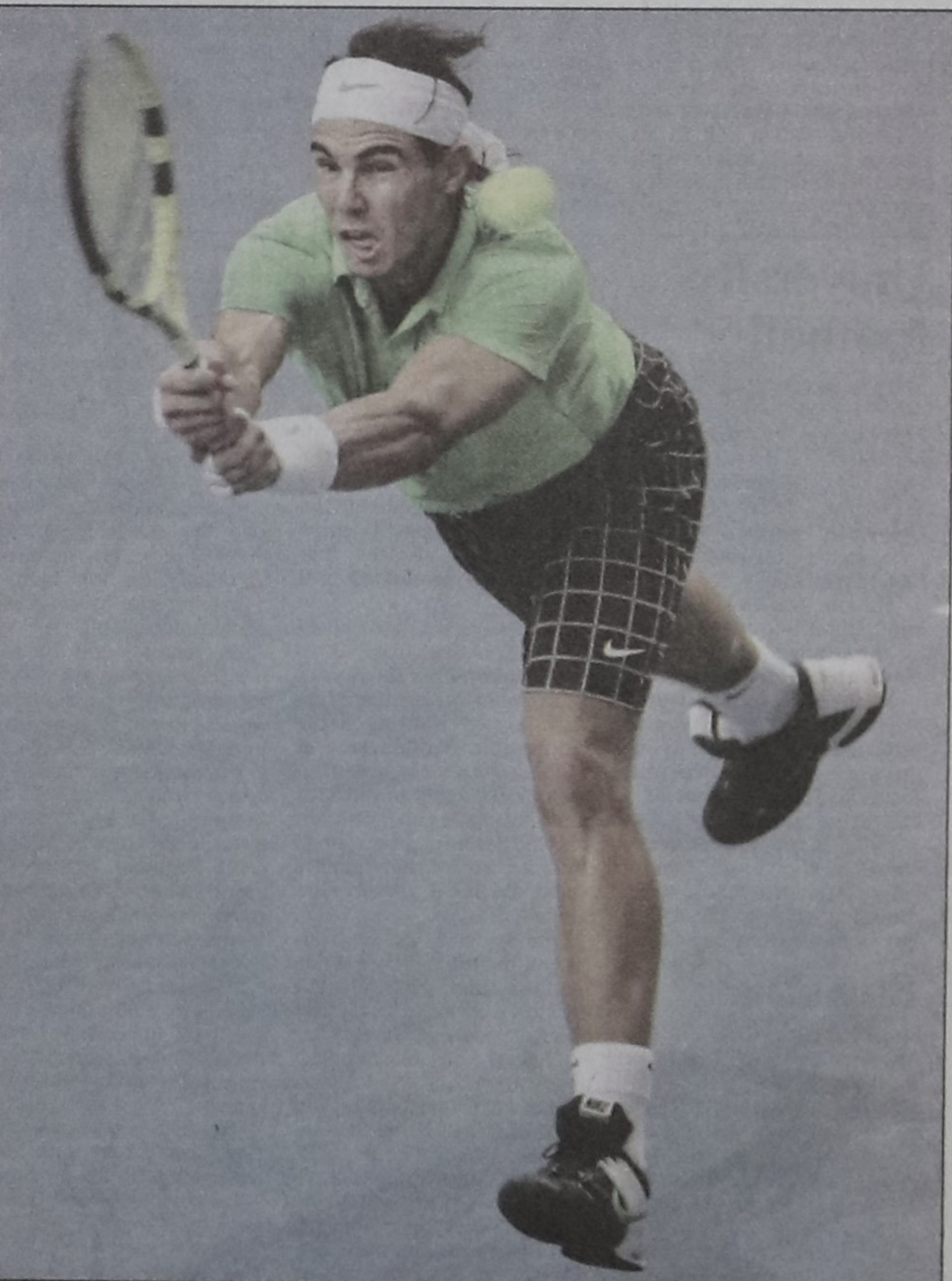


PHOTO: AFP  
World number two Rafael Nadal of Spain stretches to make a double-fisted backhand return during his Paris Indoor Master's quarterfinal clash with Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Friday.