

Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Hasibul Haque scored 110 runs off 132 deliveries to help his side Lt. Sk. Jamal Dhanmondi Club to a 5-wicket victory over City Club in their clash of the First Division cricket at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Inter-tax zone football

SPORTS REPORTER

Inter-tax Zone Football started yesterday at the Dhaka University playground. The tournament is being organized by BCS Taxation Association and sponsored by Peoples Leasing and Financial Services Limited.

Security

FROM PAGE 17

"We should play more Test cricket for sure. It is obviously not great news that we are only playing five Tests this (2009-2010) season," Tendulkar said at a media event in Mumbai on Friday.

Kumar thinks

FROM PAGE 17

"A team will grow by playing more Tests because that is what real cricket is. And since it is played over five days, at the end of each day it allows you to regroup, re-think, come up with fresh ideas and plan for the next day."

"Sometimes in Twenty20 and one-dayers, even before you realise, the match is over," said Tendulkar, who last played a Test series in March-April against New Zealand.



Dunga

(Brazil soccer coach) "I want to be remembered as a winner. You should not forget that if Brazil has won a lot of competitions it is because we have had the best defenders as well as the best strikers."



German captain Michael Ballack (L) and defender Per Merte Sacker lead a train of mourners as they carry a wreath to be laid on the coffin of deceased teammate Robert Enke at the stadium in Hanover on Sunday.

Enke paid last respects

Football

AFP, Berlin

Germany's football stars, including Michael Ballack and Jurgen Klinsmann, joined tens of thousands of mourning fans in Hanover on Sunday to pay their last respects to tragic goalkeeper Robert Enke.

Phelps flops again

Swimming

AFP, Berlin

Michael Phelps admitted Saturday he is in poor form after another disappointing performance saw him finish fifth in the men's 200m butterfly final as world records tumbled here at the shortcourse World Cup meet.

last July and the pair are set to clash here again on Sunday in the same event. Biedermann also holds the world short course record (1:40.83) achieved in Berlin last year and received a boost ahead of his Phelps head-to-head by breaking the world record here in the men's shortcourse 400m freestyle.

Lions in WC

FROM PAGE 17 followed by Gabon (nine), Togo (eight) and Morocco (three). Cameroon booked a passage to South Africa a few hours after Nigeria topped Group B by winning 3-2 in Kenya and they join South Africa, automatic qualifiers as hosts, Ghana and Ivory Coast as African representatives.

One more

FROM PAGE 17

out for 76 on the first morning. "The wicket is a bit sticky at the moment because it has been watered, but it will dry up in this hot weather and will be good to bat on."

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Amit Mishra, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Murali Vijay, Pragyan Ojha, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Subramaniam Badrinath.

Brazil

FROM PAGE 20 "I think Brazil is in balance, technically and tactically and also the physical conditioning of the players is very good," he said.

Gazi Tank issue passed on to Board of BCB

SPORTS REPORTER

The disciplinary committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has referred the Gazi Tank Cricketers' issue to the Board of BCB with some observations. At the same time the committee has also requested Gazi Tank to continue playing in the ongoing Premier Division League.

The committee, led by Sirajuddin M Alamgir, sat with the match commissioner, umpires and representatives of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) after Gazi Tank sought implementation of their four-point demand that was placed before CCDM following what the club called biased umpiring that led them down against Mohammedan.

Gazi Tank also warned that they would be boycotting the league if their demand was not met. They alleged that umpire Nadir Shah did not rule Farveez Maharroof run out to favour Mohammedan.

Gazi Tank are scheduled to take on Surjo Torun in the seventh round today at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan ground.

However, the disciplinary committee will sit again in a couple of days to clear some matters before the BCB's Board meeting on November 23.

Who says ODIs dying

INTERNET, undated

The seven-match one-day international series between India and Australia, with its sellout crowds and high TRPs, has made the talk of the death of ODIs' sound premature. Over the last three weeks, the world's biggest cricket market accepted the format with glee: All six matches played were sold out, and TV ratings in India suggested it got more eyeballs than the three big events that preceded it: the World Twenty20, Champions Trophy and Champions League Twenty20.

The Indian ratings (TRPs) compiled by TV audience measurement agency Audience Map (aMap) for the two ICC premier events this year -- the World Twenty20 and Champions Trophy -- go in favour of the shortest format of the game, but not by much.

While the average TRP for the 27 games of the World Twenty20 was 2.11, the figure was 3.98 when India's games were taken into consideration. In comparison, the average TRP for all matches in the Champions Trophy in South Africa that soon followed plummeted to 1.1 as India fell at the first stage, though their three matches fetched an average of 3.16. In fact, India's matches drew 88 million viewers on the government-run channel Doordarshan 1 (DD1).

The ratings, expressed as a percentage, took into account 15-years-plus viewers across all-India cable and satellite households (CS-15), with the top six metros in India under survey.

Dilshan boost for SL

Cricket

AFP, Ahmedabad

Sri Lanka's hopes of winning their first ever Test on Indian soil were given a huge lift on Sunday when Tillakaratne Dilshan was declared fit to play after an ankle injury.

The dashing opener twisted an ankle in Mumbai last week and was not available for the three-day tour opener against the Indian prodigy's XI, which was later washed out without a ball being bowled.

But Sri Lankan captain Kumar Sangakkara said Dilshan was certain to take his place at the top of the order in the first match of the three-Test series starting on Monday.

"Dilshan is fully fit and will play," Sangakkara told reporters at the Motera stadium here. "He went well at practice today and looked in good touch."

Dilshan has enjoyed a successful run over the past 12 months, scoring 910 runs in nine Tests at an average of 65.00 with a best of 162 against Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka are brimming with confidence after back-to-back series wins at home against Pakistan and New Zealand, which lifted them to the number two spot in the Test rankings behind South Africa.

India, however, remains the final frontier for the tourists, who have never won a Test on Indian soil in six previous series, losing eight matches while the remaining six were drawn.

"It is a record we want to rectify and we have the team to do that," said Sangakkara, adding that

a better balanced attack was the advantage his side had over the other Sri Lankan teams that toured India in the past.

"We have the men to do the job in all conditions," he said. "With all-rounder Angelo Mathews around, we have the luxury of playing either three seamers or three spinners."

Sangakkara would not reveal if both left-armers Rangana Herath and unorthodox spinner Ajantha Mendis will join world record holder Muttiah Muralitharan in a three-man spin attack.

"We have not worked out the combination," he said, wanting to have another look at the brownish wicket before finalising the playing XI.

Sri Lanka suffered heavy defeats in their last series in India, in 2005, losing the second Test by 188 runs and the third by 259 runs after the first match was rained off.

Sangakkara, Dilshan, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera and Muralidaran are the only survivors from that tour, but the skipper said the inexperience of the others did not worry him.

"The boys are really excited about playing this series because they get a chance to prove themselves," he said. "Reputations are there to be made."

Muralidaran, Test cricket's leading bowler with 783 wickets, also has a score to settle after claiming just 31 scalps in eight matches on Indian soil at an expensive average of 39.58.

The off-spinner, 37, who is retiring from Test cricket after the home series against the West Indies next year, said he was keen to shine against India on what could be his last overseas tour.

"We have not won in India and this could be my last tour, so the motivation is obviously there to do well," said Muralitharan.

Djokovic downs Nadal

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Serbian third seed Novak Djokovic will meet 15th-seeded home favourite Gael Monfils in the ATP Paris Masters final after both players came through their semifinal matches on Saturday.

In-form Djokovic, who won the Basel tournament last weekend, trounced an uncharacteristically subdued Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-3, before Monfils delighted the Bercy arena crowd by beating Czech 13th seed Radek Stepanek 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

"There's not much to say about today's performance, except that it was perfect," said a beaming Djokovic.

"It went exactly the way I wanted. Tactically, I did everything I wanted to do before the match. I was very aggressive, took early control of the match and it paid off."

"Today was one of those days when you feel everything is going right, everything is working for you."

Nadal refused to attribute his defeat to fatigue and was full of praise for Djokovic.

"He played very well, unbelievable in my opinion," said the second seed.

"When Novak plays at that level it's very difficult to play him, especially on a hard, fast court. I've never played against Djokovic when he's been at this level before."

Djokovic claimed the first break of serve for a 4-2 lead with an inch-perfect backhand winner down the line after an entertaining opening in which neither player was afraid to come to the net.

The 23-year-old world number three then secured the first set in Nadal's next service game with a backhand return that let the Spaniard rooted to the spot.

Nadal had already proved his

durability in the tournament by seeing off five match points in his second-round win over Nicolas Almagro and surviving another match point against 14th-seeded countryman Tommy Robredo in round three.

Djokovic, though, is on top of his game at the moment and he broke early in set two for a 2-0 lead with a punishing forehand winner.

Nadal, whose last title came in May when he beat Djokovic in the final of the Rome Masters, was struggling to contend with his opponent's raking groundstrokes but managed to end a run of seven lost games by holding serve for 3-1.

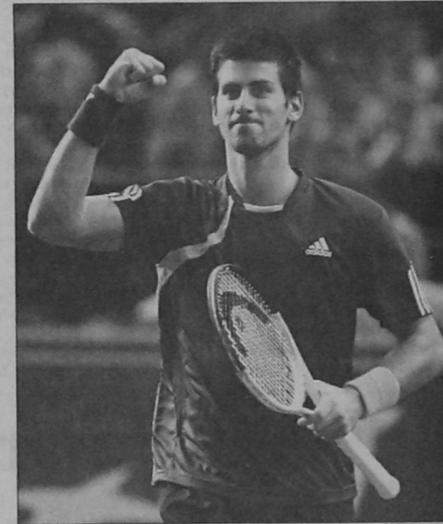
It was to prove nothing more than a stay of execution, however, as Djokovic served out to reach his 10th final of 2009,

sealing victory with his 31st winner of a surprisingly comfortable afternoon.

The second semifinal saw Stepanek break early for a 2-0 lead but Paris-born Monfils broke straight back when Stepanek clipped a drop-shot into the net, moving 3-2 ahead after the Czech sent a rushed backhand into the tramlines.

The Frenchman served out to take the opening set and the players exchanged early breaks in set two before Monfils broke again in game seven after Stepanek made errors with consecutive volleys.

Monfils served for the match at 5-4 but a succession of nervous shots allowed Stepanek to break and the 30-year-old took advantage of his adversary's faltering confidence to win the set and level the match.



Serbian Novak Djokovic pumps his fist after beating world number two Spaniard Rafael Nadal in the Paris Indoor Masters semifinals on Saturday. Djokovic will play final with Frenchman Gael Monfils.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Mexican entree 42 "Wow!" 46 Detail 47 Squirrels' hangouts 48 "That's funny!" to 12 Green land 49 Cincinnati team 50 Genealogy chart 51 Sweet potato

DOWN 1 Judge Lance 2 Homer's interjection 3 Formal discussions 4 Small flycatcher 5 Laugh-a-minute mass 6 Bobby of hockey 7 Become one 27 Burn something 8 Anne who married Henry VIII 28 Lily variety 30 Coffin support 33 File holders 10 Antitoxins 11 Command to Fido 16 Oxen's binder 19 Young bokes 20 Too confident 21 Engine noise 22 Leave 23 Tiers 25 Amorphous 26 In toto 27 Burn something 28 Lily variety 30 Coffin support 33 File holders 34 Ganges wrap 36 Talk a blue streak? 37 Use a teaspoon 38 Loathe 39 On the rocks 40 Prepare a casserole 42 Braille component 43 Anvil's site 44 Extinct New Zealand 45 Shade provider

Crossword grid with numbers 1-45 indicating starting positions for words.

CRYPTOQUIP

AC OCQ BQYYCBD RXOGCAO THEE DIDF NRJD R IHADC RGCQU TSHBJDO RXA NRFJDU HU RB R BKCUKS URYD? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THEY MADE A FOLLOW-UP TO THE MOVIE THAT WAS VERY POOR. IT WAS DEFINITELY NOT AN EQUAL SEQUEL. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals Y