

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. Hasibul's 11 and Mostafizur Rahman's 81 led Dhanmondi to chase down City Club's total of 277 in 48.1 overs with 5 wickets in hand. There was another century on the day, this one coming from the bat of Rubel Hossain (108 not out) that guided Uttara Sporting Club to chase down 220 for the loss of a single wicket against Agrani Bank at the City Club ground. Over at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Indira Road (227/6) got a 19-run victory over Bangladesh Boys (208/8), thanks to a 19-run innings from Arafat Chowdhury and a brace from their left-arm spinner Mohammad Isam. Jamil Labu bowled an impressive spell to take four wickets to hand Gopeebag Friends Association a 70-run victory over Jatrabari at the Jahangirnagar University ground.

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. Secretary for Youth and Sports Mahub Ahmed, the chief guest, inaugurated the tournament yesterday afternoon, where managing director of Peoples Leasing Dalil Ul Haque was present as the special guest. Six teams from different tax zones, named after six big rivers, are taking part in the 5-day long tournament.

Security

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in place at all practice venues." Murshed also asked all nine sub-committees to hold their meetings and place their budgets shortly. The committees were also asked to hire as much manpower as needed. He also informed that he received assurance of uninterrupted power supply during the tournament from authorities concerned.

The former national footballer said that they had decided to decorate the capital to uphold the cultures of all member nations to create enthusiasm among the spectators.

Kumar thinks

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"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.

"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.

Since then, it has only been one-day and T20 cricket for Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men, culminating in a one-day series against Australia that ended in a 4-2 defeat last week.



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 Mertesacker 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. German football stars past and present joined tens of thousands of fans in Hanover to pay their last respects to Enke, who committed suicide last week.

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.

The 32-year-old, who had been set to travel with the Germany squad to next June's 2010 World Cup in South Africa, flung himself under a commuter train at a small town near Hanover on Tuesday evening having suffered from depression.

An emotional memorial service was held at Hanover 96's stadium, where Enke should have been in goal for the next home game against Bayern Munich.

Instead, his coffin lay in the centre-circle as many of the 40,000 fans wept openly on the terraces while others proudly held aloft their club scarves.

The tragedy has thrown football-mad Germany into mourning and highlighted the immense amount of pressure the game's stars here are expected to shoulder.

Since his death, it has emerged Enke had been treated for depression since 2003 and German Football Federation (DFB) president Theo Zwanziger appealed to fans to show more understanding of the pressures their heroes face on a daily basis.

"Football must not be everything in life," said Zwanziger.

"A little more humanity, a little more courage in your convictions, a little bit more understanding of people's dignity: this is what I wish from you (the fans)."

And Zwanziger appealed to the parents of the

next generation of Germany's stars.

"Dear parents, if you think of whether your children can one day become national players, think not only of the glory," he said.

Germany's planned friendly against Chile on Saturday was called off as a mark of respect and the national squad joined coach Joachim Loew, plus his predecessor Klinsmann, to say goodbye to their former team-mate.

Enke leaves behind his wife Teresa, 33, and eight-month-old daughter Leila, whom the couple adopted in May after their two-year-old daughter Lara died from a heart infection.

After the service, Enke was buried next to his daughter in a private ceremony for the family. Before his Hanover team-mates carried out Enke's coffin on the journey to his final resting place, the city's mayor Stephan Weil paid tribute to the man whose death has affected football fans around the globe.

"Why does one single man's death touch a whole town, a region and beyond?" asked Weil.

"We, here in Hanover, were always impressed with his performances and only last Sunday we celebrated his comeback here from injury."

"He was a role model for many, especially for children, and many of us would have liked someone like him as a friend."

And Weil echoed Zwanziger's words by asking for more understanding for people suffering from the still-taboo illness of depression and said Enke's death would not be in vain if it helps others seek professional help.

"He who shows fear is not weak, but strong," said Weil.

"We can learn something from his death, but that does not make it better - he will live on in our hearts."

A tribute on behalf of the Germany squad was printed in several newspapers here on Sunday and the service was screened live on five German television channels.

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.

Phelps, who claimed eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, touched the wall in a time of 1 min 54.22 secs behind Russia's Nikolay Skvortsov's winning time of 1 min 51.64 secs.

Having finished third in the 100-metre medley in Stockholm's World Cup meet last week where he missed out on two other finals, Phelps swam in traditional trunks here while some of his rivals wore the modern high-tech swimsuits.

And the Olympic hero said he was bitterly disappointed at another poor performance.

"Others may want to wear the high-tech suits, but I am preparing for the future," said Phelps with the world's governing body FINA to ban the modern swimsuits from January 1 2010.

"I am not in the form that I really want to be," Phelps, 24, suffered the first defeat in four years to Germany's Paul Biedermann, 23, in the 200m freestyle final at Rome's World Championships

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.

The 23-year-old German clocked 3 mins 32.77secs to break Australian Grant Hackett's previous mark of 3 mins 34.58secs, despite only getting the green light to race on Friday after recovering from a thigh injury.

Phelps and Biedermann are set to clash again here on Sunday morning when the men's 200m freestyle heats get underway with the finals on Sunday evening.

"I am really pleased with the race, the leg was a bit sore before and I needed 45 minutes to get into my suit," said the German.

"I am looking forward to racing Michael."

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, Pragnan Ojha, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Subramaniam Badrinath.

SRI LANKA (from): Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Muttiah Muralidaran, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Tharanga Paranavitana, Thilan Samaraweera, Angelo Mathews, Thilina Kandamby, Prasanna Jayawardene, Kaushal Silva, Chanaka Welegedara, Thilan Thushara, Nuwan Kulasekera, Dammika Prasad, Rangana Herath, Ajantha Mendis.

Brazil

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"I think Brazil is in balance,

technically and tactically and also the physical conditioning of the players is very good," he said.

"But it is not so long since people were saying we were not favourites at all. We need to look for our space to make our game and not pay any attention to what people are saying. All that matters is what we do on the pitch."

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 Metropolis (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 Maharoof 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.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Picks out of a lineup
4 Ship's front
8 Wild party
12 Plaything
13 Green land
14 Curved molding
15 "Wow!"
17 Traditional tales
18 Versifier
19 Constitutional
20 Orated
22 Overcast
24 Ponder
25 "Wow!"
29 Swiss canton
30 Huffs and puffs
31 Born
32 "Wow!"
34 Un-escorted
35 Unpaid bill
36 Illinois city
37 Bake eggs
40 Perry Mason portrayal

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

4 Small flycatcher
22 Leave
23 Tiers
25 Amorphous mass
26 In toto
27 Burn some-thing
8 Anne who married Henry VIII
28 Lily variety
9 More than enthusiastic
30 Coffin support
33 File holders
10 Antitoxins
11 Command to Fido
16 Oxen's binder
19 Young bakes
20 Too confident
21 Engine noise

DOWN
1 Judge
2 Homer's interjection
3 Formal discussions
36 Talk a blue streak? Use a tea-spoon
38 Loathe
39 On the rocks
40 Prepare a casserole
42 Braille component
43 Anvil's site
44 Extinct New Zealand
45 Shade provider

Solution time: 25 mins.

CHAD IRK RICO
LEVI MOI ACID
EROS PET DEAD
FONDUE CLAW
POSIT HEN TAD
IVAN PUN LEWD
TAT ARM PERKY
ALL THE BEST
BEAT RITUAL
OBOE ZOO ISLE
LOAN END NETS
DOTS LEE GRAS

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 board president'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-arm 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 Stepánek 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.

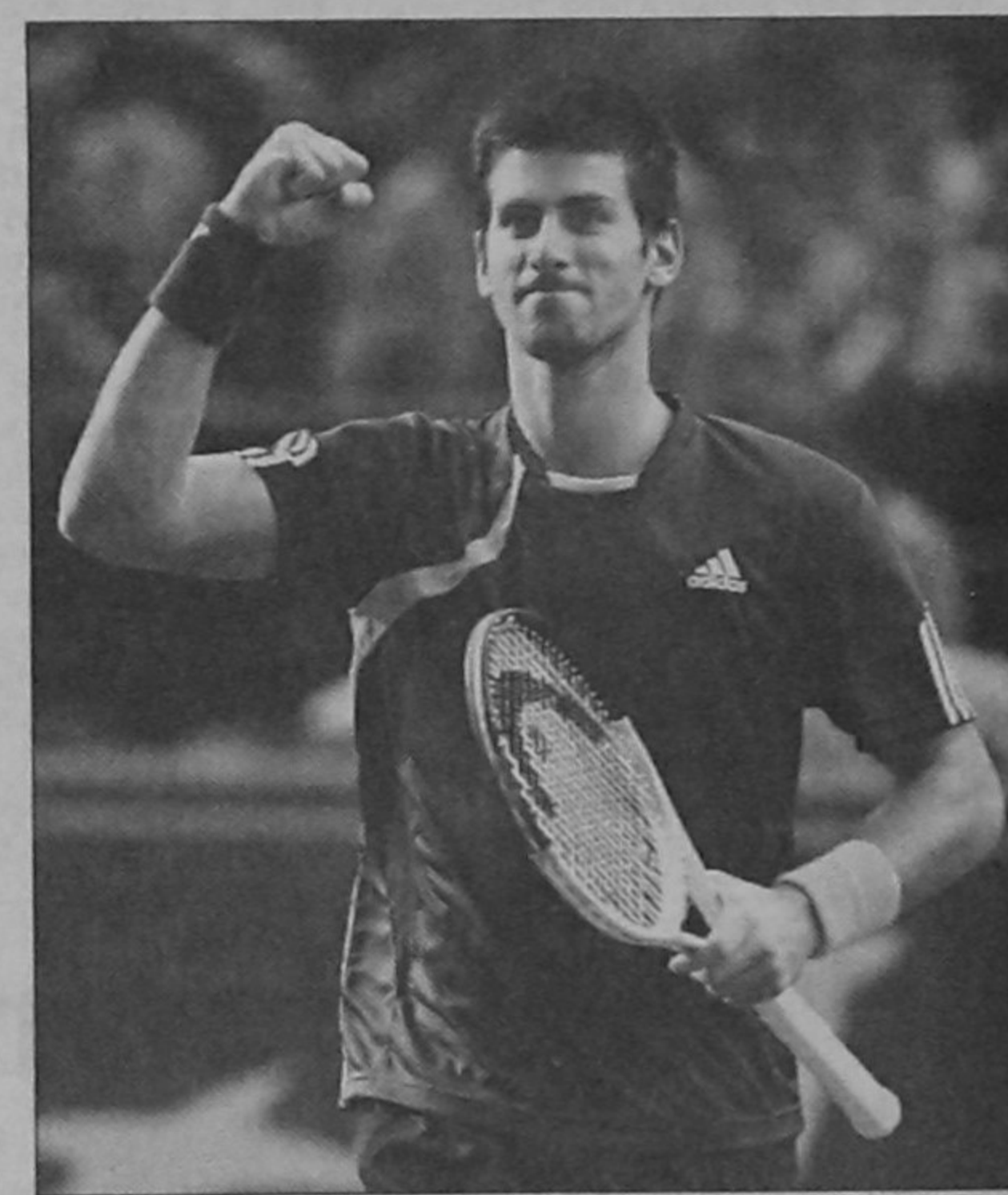
It was to prove nothing more than a stay of execution, however, as Djokovic served out to reach his 10th final of 2009,

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

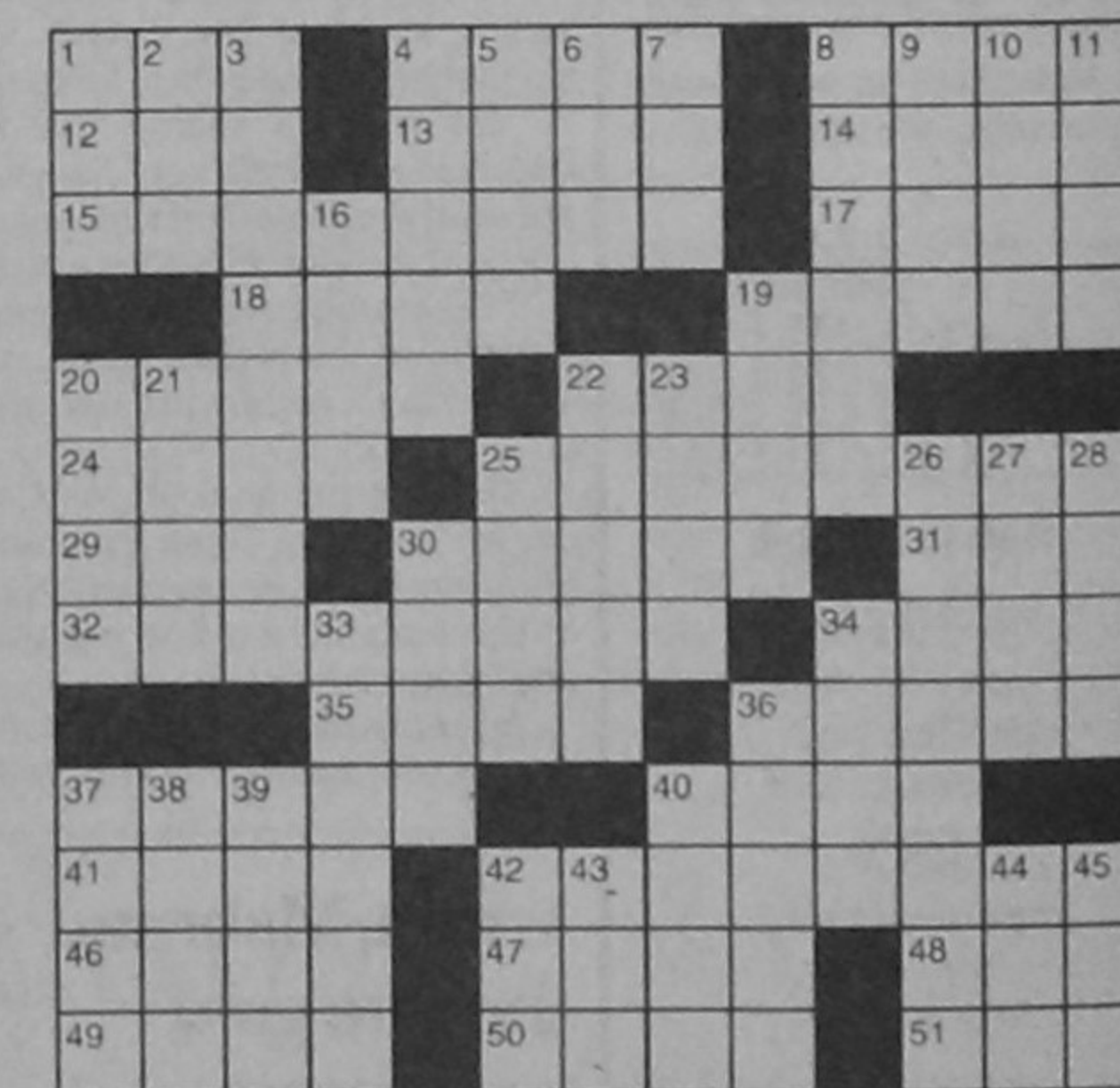
The second semifinal saw Stepanek break early for a 2-0 lead but Paris-born Monfils broke straight back when Stepanek clipped a drop-shot into the net, moving 3-2 ahead after the Czech sent a rushed backhand into the tramlines.

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.



CRYPTOQUIP

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THEE DIDF NRJD R IHADC
RGCQU TSHBJDO RXA NRFJDU
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Yesterday's Cryptquip: THEY MADE A

FOLLOW-UP TO THE MOVIE THAT WAS VERY

POOR. IT WAS DEFINITELY NOT AN EQUAL

SEQUEL.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals Y