



American Sanya Richards (L) and Jamaican super sprinter Usain Bolt pose for photographs after being awarded as best female and male athletes of the year during an IAAF gala in Monaco Sunday night.

Valencia cruise

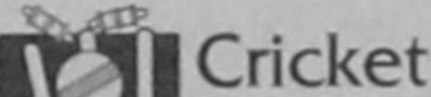
AFP, Madrid



Valencia reclaimed fourth place with a convincing 3-1 away victory at nine-man Osasuna on Sunday and are now just four points behind league leaders Real Madrid. Valencia recorded their fourth successive league win largely thanks to two goals in the first 20 minutes from David Villa and David Albelda, before Carlos Marchena wrapped up the points with a third. Villa opened the scoring after just six minutes using an outstretching boot to flick in a lofted pass for his ninth goal of the season extending his lead at the top of the scoring charts to two goals. Albelda scored with a fine chip on 20 minutes before Marchena thundered a volley in off the underside of the crossbar to sink Osasuna in the second half. Osasuna had top-scorer Walter Pandiani harshly sent off on 64 minutes for collecting a second yellow card and Miguel Flano got a straight red for kicking out at Valencia substitute Ever Banega late on. Earlier in-form Brazilian forward Nilmar scored a brace to help slow-starting Villarreal climb into mid-table with a 3-1 home win over Valladolid on Sunday. Nilmar had scored in both of Brazil's last two international games - against England and Oman - and continued his purple patch with two more goals. Argentine Damian Escudero centred for Nilmar after just six minutes and the Brazilian headed a second two minutes after the break

for his third goal of the season as he begins to repay his club record 11 million euro fee. Villarreal had their worst ever start to a season in the top-flight with just three points from the first six matches but have bounced back to push up the standings plundering 14 goals in their last four games. Elsewhere Real Mallorca maintained their perfect home record making it six wins from six at their Ono Stadium with a late 3-1 victory over Almeria. Substitute Victor and Gonzalo Castro both scored in the final two minutes as Mallorca stay sixth in the table. In other matches, goal-shy Xerez drew 0-0 with Sporting Gijon to stay second from bottom of the table while Sporting are a creditable seventh. Malaga continue to prop up the table after a heated 1-1 draw with Real Zaragoza which saw both teams reduced to ten men. Zaragoza went in front through a highly-disputable 49th minute penalty after Angel Lafita went down theatrically and Brazilian Everton converted the spot-kick. The game got ugly in the second half and there were two expulsions in as many minutes with Zaragoza left back Javier Paredes awarded a second yellow on 58 minutes for a robust challenge. Two minutes later Malaga's Weligton got a straight red for lashing an arm at Raul Goni as he jostled for space in the penalty area. Malaga equalised to set up a frantic finale containing yellow cards, diving and complaining before Lafita almost won it hitting the post in the final minute.

Collingwood dashes SA



AFP, Centurion

Paul Collingwood, making a record 171st one-day appearance for England, hit a century, took two wickets and held a superb catch as England gained a comfortable seven-wicket win over South Africa in the second one-international at SuperSport Park on Sunday. Collingwood shared a record 162-run third wicket stand with South African-born Jonathan Trott (87) as England chased down South Africa's total of 250 for nine with 24 balls to spare. Collingwood finished with 105 not out off 110 balls. "It was a big day for me on a personal note, but I thought the team put in a fantastic performance," said Collingwood. Trott, whose only previous



Did U Know?

Chris Gayle currently holds the record for the highest innings in a Twenty20 international, having scored 117 against South Africa in the World Twenty20 Championship, and, to date, is the only batsman to have hit a century in the Twenty20 format, hitting ten sixes in the match.

Khelaghar upset Gazi

FROM PAGE 17 Nasiruddin Faruk put on 124 for the first wicket in 31.3 overs. Rumman scored 62 while Faruk ended with 69. The latter batsmen chipped in with some quick runs to post 225 on the board. All rounder Nazmus Sadat was the most successful bowler for Kalabagan with three wickets. Chasing this big target, Kalabagan struggled from the beginning against some fierce bowling from pacer Rubel Hossain, who ripped through the top order with three quick wickets including that of skipper Javed Omar (7). Mohammad Zahid (32) and Ariful Haque (22) tried their best, but they too failed to negotiate the other bowlers. Manosh Kundu finished with 3 for 10 to clip the lower order and get Kalabagn all out for a paltry 118 in 32.1 overs. Rubel's outstanding figures read 4 for 26. BRIEF SCORES Gazi Tank vs Khelaghar Gazi Tank: 248 for 4 in 50 overs (Nafees 128 not out, Misbahul Haque 59; Monirul Islam 1-35) Khelaghar: 249 for 5 in 49.1

Lochte dethrones Phelps

AFP, Los Angeles

Ryan Lochte beat out superstar Michael Phelps and veteran Aaron Peirsol for male swimmer of the year Sunday at USA Swimming's Golden Goggles awards. Rebecca Soni nabbed female swimmer of the year honours, while Phelps, who earned a leading six nominations, was honoured for delivering the men's race of the year and for a world championship relay performance. Lochte ended Phelps' two-year reign as male swimmer of the year, thanks to world record-setting triumphs in the 200m individual medley and 4x200m freestyle relay at the world championships in Rome. He earned five medals, including four golds in Rome. "I just want to say thank you to my parents. They've been 100 percent with me my entire swimming career," Lochte said. "Aaron Peirsol and Michael Phelps, you guys have pushed me to limits I didn't even know, and I wouldn't be here without you." Lochte also shared the relay performance of the year award, for the 4x100m free relay in Rome in which he, Phelps, Matt Grevers and Nathan Adrian defeated Russia as favourites France flopped. Phelps was honoured for his scintillating 100m butterfly triumph in Rome. He smashed the 50-second barrier with a time of 49.82sec and handed Milorad Cavic a bigger defeat than the one the Serbian suffered by a fingertip at the Beijing Olympics.

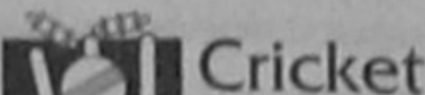
Div I cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha notched a four-wicket win over Rupali Bank in the First Division Cricket League at Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday. Batting first, Rupali Bank scored 208 for 6 in their stipulated 50 overs with Rakib Ahmed contributing unbeaten 107 off 126 balls that featured four fours and seven sixes. In reply, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha reached the target scoring 210 runs for six wickets in 48.4 overs with Mustafizur Rahman scoring 52 runs. In the other matches of the day, Motijheel T&T Club (180/5 in 43.4 overs) beat Lalmatia Club (178/10 in 48.1ov) by 5 wickets at Dhaka University ground while Prime Doleshwar SC (171/3 in 32ov) beat Azad SC (170/10 in 39ov) by 7 wickets at the City Club ground.

PAK-NZ 1ST TEST TODAY

Batting concern both teams



AFP, Dunedin

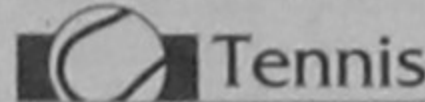
New Zealand and Pakistan were casting an anxious eye at their fragile batting lineups Monday ahead of the first cricket Test here. The first of three Tests between New Zealand, the seventh ranked team in the world, and their sixth ranked rivals starts today as both teams try to overcome leadership upheavals. New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori has also taken over the role of head coach following the sudden departure of Andy Moles last month amid player criticism. Vettori will also have to take a heavy bowling load with his team taking just four bowlers into the Test as they try to bolster their brittle batting lineup. "Four bowlers means an increased workload for me but I think that's a good thing," Vettori said. "We have to be honest and acknowledge our batting hasn't been as good as we'd like." "We go into a Test match with six batters -- their role is

to bat, none of them have to worry about bowling." The retirement of all-rounder Jacob Oram from Test cricket has left a hole, with likely replacement Grant Elliott unlikely to bowl because of a niggling knee problem. Vettori said he had nothing but respect for Pakistan despite their recent woes, including the decision of captain Younus Khan to drop out of the tour. "They're a dangerous side, they've got a balanced bowling attack and one of the greatest batsmen of the modern generation in Mohammad Yousuf," he said. There will be plenty of pressure on fast bowler Shane Bond, who has not played Test cricket for two years due to injuries and his participation last year in the rebel Indian Cricket League. He is expected to be joined by pace bowlers Chris Martin and Daryl Tuffey, considered likely to get the nod ahead of Iain O'Brien. Bond backed the bowlers to do the necessary damage on what is likely to be a seaming University Oval wicket, but they will need support from the batsmen. "I think if we can get runs on the board then we definitely have the bowling attack to take wickets." Pakistan's ambitions rest heavily on stand-in captain Yousuf, who boasts a Test average of 54.86 from 82 tests, and coach Intikhab Alam is looking for greater consistency. "We are an inexperienced side and we need to bat four or five sessions," he said. "We have the kind of bowling attack that we can get 20 wickets and this is what you need." "But as far as batting is concerned I think we will have to be very, very careful." Pakistan's bowling attack -- including Umar Gul, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif -- will be a handful for New Zealand's inexperienced batsmen. The series, moved from Pakistan due to security concerns following the March attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore, will be the first in which a new video referral system using the off-field umpire will be in play. Unlike earlier trials, each side will only be able to make a maximum of two unsuccessful referrals to the third

umpire in each innings if they disagree with the on-field umpire's decision. Intikhab said he was happy with the new system, while Vettori said he would prefer the number of unsuccessful appeals per innings to be limited to one. "One (referral) doesn't allow people just to go upstairs for a bit of a guess," he said. "Hopefully we can get it where it becomes an instrument to get rid of the bad decisions and nothing more."

SQUADS NEW ZEALAND Daniel Vettori (captain), Tim McIntosh, Martin Guptill, Daniel Flynn, Ross Taylor, Peter Fulton, Grant Elliott, Brendon McCullum, Shane Bond, Iain O'Brien, Daryl Tuffey, Chris Martin, Jeetan Patel. PAKISTAN Mohammad Yousuf (captain) Salman Butt, Khuram Manzoor, Imran Farhat, Shoaib Malik, Fawad Alam, Faisal Iqbal, Kamran Akmal, Danish Kaneria, Saeed Ajamal, Yasir Arafat, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Aamir, Abdur Rauf, Umer Akmal, Sarfraz Ahmed.

Federer seeks revenge



AFP, London

World number one Roger Federer is looking forward to the chance for revenge over home favourite Andy Murray in the ATP World Tour Finals in London on Tuesday. Federer suffered a costly defeat to Murray in the group stage of the end-of-season event when it was held in Shanghai last year. The Swiss star was eliminated from the tournament as a result of that 6-4, 6-7, 5-7 loss -- ending his two-year reign as Tour Finals champion. It was not the first time that Murray had upset Federer -- the Scot holds a 6-3 career winning record against arguably the greatest player of all

time, although the Wimbledon and French Open champion won their last meeting in Cincinnati. Federer has a chance to get his own back on Murray for that Shanghai loss by beating the British number one when they meet again in their Group A clash at the O2 Arena. "Obviously I expect a difficult match. It's always fun playing your fellow rivals. I think Andy has been one of the guys I played the most," Federer said. "From Shanghai last year, I remember I was not going into the match with the highest of hopes. I knew I had only a little bit left in the tank because I was sick two days before. "I was injured two or three weeks before. So I kind of just said to myself, you know what, I'll play aggressive and see

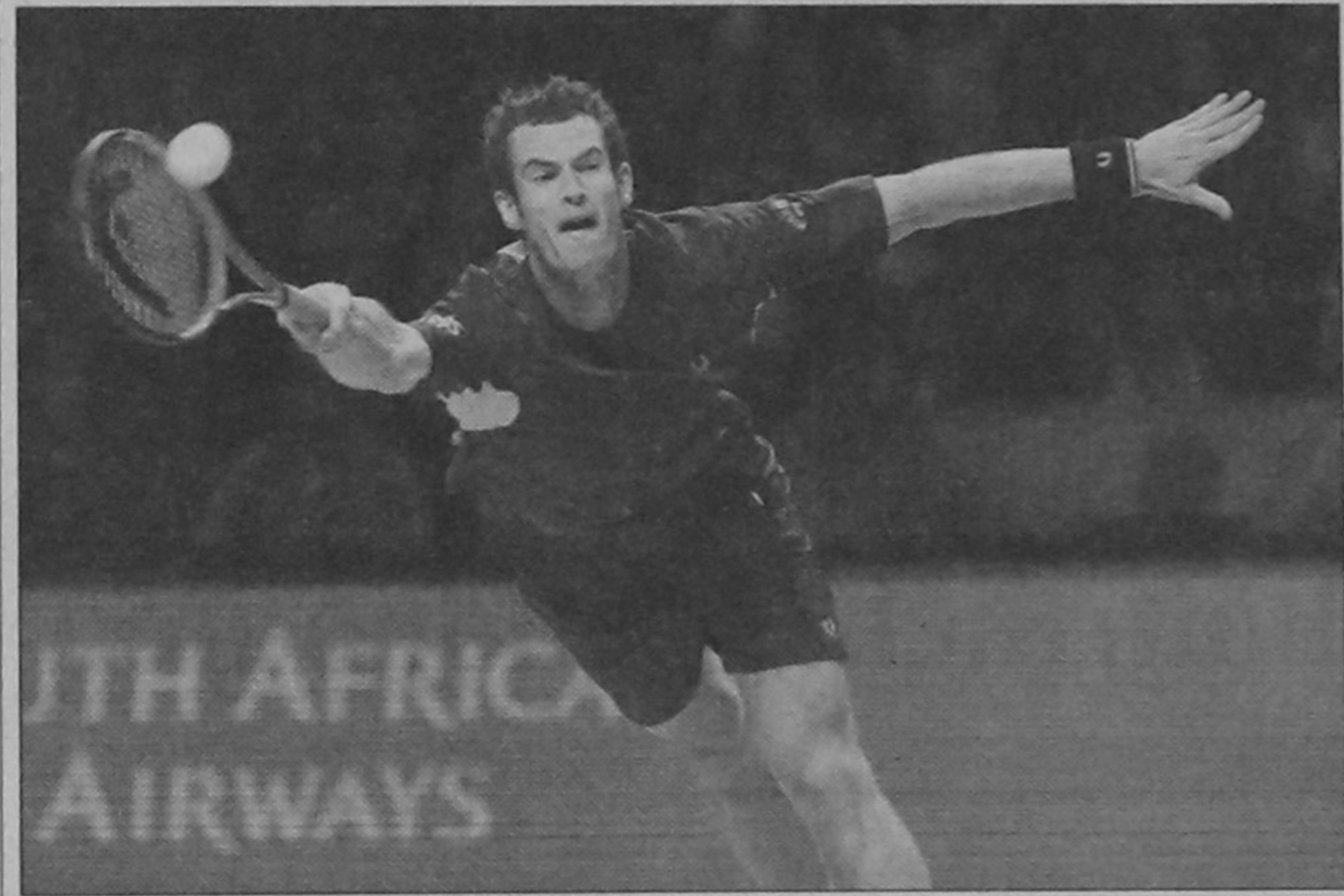
what happens. "I was playing incredible for a set. I almost got a victory. But I thought it was a very exciting match to be a part of. "It was unfortunate for me not to come through. But I still think the match was great. I hope we can live up to the expectations and play another good one." Federer is likely to need a significant improvement on his erratic win against Spain's Fernando Verdasco on Sunday. While Murray looked good in his 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 victory over US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, Federer looked ill at ease as he dropped the first set before eventually finding some rhythm to win 4-6, 7-5, 6-1. "I just felt that sort of at the beginning of the second set, I

Tri-nation

FROM PAGE 17 Special Enclosure - TK 400.00 for first six matches & TK 500.00 for final Club House - TK 500.00 for first six matches & TK 600.00 for final VIP Grand Stand - TK 2000.00 for first six matches & TK 2500.00 for final TICKET RATES FOR BANGLADESH-INDIA TEST SERIES: Gallery - TK 100.00 Special Enclosure - TK 200.00 Club House - TK 300.00 VIP Grand Stand - TK 1000.00

2nd Test starts

FROM PAGE 17 longest format of the game next year. The Indian camp meanwhile breathed a sigh of relief after captain and wicket keeper-batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni was cleared to play. Dhoni had injured his finger during practice, prompting the team management to call in Dinesh Karthik as cover on Sunday. The third and final Test begins in Mumbai on December 2.



Great Britain's Andy Murray stretches to make a forehand return against Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro during their ATP World Tour Finals in London on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Young fellow 4 Honey bunch? 8 Slow-boil 12 Past 13 Carry on 14 Head light? 15 Expert 16 Pennsylvania port 17 As well 18 Integral component 21 "Monty Python" opener 22 Seek restitution 23 Early Christmas gift 26 "Family Guy" network 27 Weeding tool 30 Libertine 31 Family 32 Finished 33 Bottom line 34 Main ingredient in lipstick 35 Purchase from Pat Sajak 36 Rowing need 37 Author Fleming 38 Repair bill itemization 45 Settled down 46 Rem-brandts, e.g. 47 Engage in down-sizing 48 Venetian magistrates 49 Dangling site 50 Muumuu accessory 51 Cauterize 52 Hearing things? 53 Hostel Solution time: 27 mins. DOWN 1 Reindeer herder, probably 2 Taj Mahal city 3 Entrance 4 Aspiration 5 Deserves 6 Oklahoma City 7 Hamlet, to Claudius 8 Portion 9 Body powder 10 Otherwise 11 Cashmere, e.g. 19 Ersatz swing 20 Vb. type 23 Dalloway or Doubtfire 24 Golden Rule 31 Bar entertainment, often 32 Spanish lady's address 34 Existed 35 3/4 time concert pieces (Fr.) 36 Playful water critter 37 Slug-gard 38 Cushions 39 Burn soother 40 Latvia's capital 41 15th-century ship 42 Island near Java 43 The yoke's on them 44 Check

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CRYPTOQUIP

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NTX H ILKUIXPE LCIPHCR
" BHQF BKL EKTLMCPB!"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WAS GOING TO PUT THE RATHER WILTED SALAD ON THE DINNER TABLE, BUT I ENDED UP TOSSING IT.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals B