

# Serena-Henin dream final

## Murray ends a long wait



AFP, Melbourne

down 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/1) under a hot sun on the Rod Laver Arena.

Scotland's Murray is attempting to become the first Briton to win a Grand Slam since Fred Perry in 1936 and he jumped all over weary Cilic after losing the opening set -- his first dropped set of the tournament.

"Marin showed incredible guts, he had played three five-setters here. He made it so tough for me and he was so clearly tired after his hard week," said the 27-year-old.

"After losing the first set I just went for my shots."

Looking ahead to Sunday's final, Murray said he would need to be at the top of his game, whether he played Federer or Tsonga.

"It's important to play solid against either of them, maintain my level and not play silly tennis."

Ever since she announced her return to tennis the talk has been about whether Henin could emulate Belgian compatriot Kim Clijsters, who won last year's US Open on her own comeback.

And the former world number one has lived up to

expectations after being handed a wildcard by organisers.

She destroyed Zheng as she stayed on track to add to her seven Grand Slam titles, including the 2004 Australian Open.

"The dream continues. I am going to play the number one and defending champion," said the 27-year-old, who became the first wildcard to reach the final here.

"I wasn't sure about how I would feel on the court and how things would go. I have just enjoyed my tennis and taken it step by step. I can't wait for the final now, it is an amazing feeling."

Asked if she seriously expected to get this far, she revealed she was quietly confident, having booked a flight out for next Sunday before the start of the tournament.

"I was curious about how things would go and I'm very happy to come back like this," she said.

Henin has negotiated some tough opposition to get this far, including fifth seed Elena Dementieva, 19th seed Nadia Petrova and talented Belgian Yanina Wickmayer.

AFP, Melbourne

World number one Roger Federer takes on French 10th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the second semifinal on Friday.

The tenacious Henin is playing her first Grand Slam since coming out of an 18-month retirement and kept her historic run going with a 6-1, 6-0 demolition of unseeded Chinese Zheng Jie.

Williams also had to negotiate Chinese opposition and was made to work hard by 16th seed Li Na before grinding her



PHOTO: AFP  
Comeback queen Justine Henin of Belgium celebrates after winning the match point against Zheng Jie of China in the semifinals of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. Henin won 6-1, 6-0 to advance to the final.

# Sania calls it off

AFP, New Delhi

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza, who recently announced she was giving up the game for married life, said Thursday she had broken her engagement with a childhood friend.

"We were friends for years but found ourselves incompatible as fiancées," Mirza, 23, who was engaged to Sohrab Mirza, 24, last July, said in a statement from her home town of Hyderabad.

"I wish Sohrab the very best in life."

Mirza's father, Imran, said the respective families, who had known each other for years, remained on good terms.

"Despite the engagement not working out, the friendship continues," he said.

The date of the wedding had not been fixed, but the broken engagement came as a surprise since Mirza had said last week that she planned to quit tennis after her marriage.

"It's a long way off, but after you marry your priorities change and I would like to live with my husband, not be on the road for 35 weeks a year," Mirza said after her first-round loss at the Australian Open.

# Razzaq linked with KKR

CRICINFO, undated

ABDU RAZZAQ could become the first Pakistani to appear in this season's IPL, with the player saying he had been approached by Kolkata Knight Riders. While a team official said they had not approached the player following last week's auction, Razzaq said he had been offered a contract by the franchise and Sourav Ganguly, the team captain, was quoted by NDTV as saying they had been in touch with him.

"A one-year contract with KKR is ready, I have been told, but the IPL's clearance is needed first," Razzaq told Cricinfo.

"We have spoken to Razzaq for a very long time, we wanted him in the team but will wait for the IPL rules," Ganguly told NDTV. "The issue of Pakistani players is between the IPL and government. We shall have to wait for the rules."

However, a Kolkata official contacted by Cricinfo offered a contrary point of view. "We had talks with him pre-auction and we had some paperwork subject to IPL rules and conditions," the official said. "The IPL included the Pakistani players in the auction list but our first priority was to go for a fast bowler, so we went for Bond."

"Razzaq had, during this time, suffered a wrist injury and we are not so sure whether he has completely recovered from that. We have not approached him post-auction."

The news is also yet to be confirmed by the IPL and Razzaq's participation in this year's tournament will be subject to the league's rules on replacements. Since Kolkata have no free overseas spot, they can only sign up Razzaq as a replacement for an existing player on grounds of injury, and that will have to be cleared by the IPL board.

Kolkata's owner Shah Rukh Khan has openly expressed an interest in the all-rounder but franchise officials say their slots are also filled up, though there is lingering concern over the fitness of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and, in particular, the knee problems that have kept him out of cricket since July last year.

# India name squad for S Africa Test



AFP, New Delhi

India will be without three key players, including Rahul Dravid and Yuvraj Singh, when they defend their number one Test ranking against South Africa next month.

Key batsmen Dravid and Yuvraj, and pace bowler Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, were on Thursday excluded from a 15-man squad for the first of two Test matches starting in Nagpur on February six.

The second-ranked South Africa need to win the series 2-0 to displace India from the top. A 1-0 result in favour of the Proteas will leave both teams level on 123 rating points.

Dravid fractured his jaw bone and Yuvraj tore a cartilage on his left wrist during the second Test against Bangladesh in Dhaka earlier this week.

Sreesanth suffered a hamstring strain during the first Test of the same series in Chittagong.

All three players are also likely to miss the

second Test against the Proteas in Kolkata from February 14, the team for which will be named later.

Veteran batsman Venkatsai Laxman, who needed stitches on a bruised finger during the Chittagong Test, was declared fit to play.

The squad includes three uncapped players, batsman Subramaniam Badrinath, reserve wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha and promising seamer Abhimanyu Mithun, for the first Test.

Mithun, 20, a right-arm seamer, grabbed 47 first-class wickets in nine matches in his debut season, helping Karnataka reach the Ranji Trophy final earlier this month.

Badrinath is still to play a Test after three one-day appearances, while Saha replaces Dinesh Karthik as the second wicketkeeper, behind skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

**TEAM**  
Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Murali Vijay, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Subramaniam Badrinath, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Amit Mishra, Sudeep Tyagi, Prayyan Ojha, Abhimanyu Mithun, Wriddhiman Saha.

# U-19s again

FROM PAGE 17

Fast bowler Andrew Balbirnie was the most successful Irish bowler with 4-59.

Ireland were never in contention of chasing down the huge target when they lost half of their side for 39 runs.

While Kamrul cleaned up the Ireland lower-order, his new-ball partner Alauddin Babu ripped through the top-order to finish with figures of 3-33 from 10 overs.

"We've enjoyed the conditions here in Napier. The pitch at McLean Park has good pace and bounce. We batted exceptionally well today and everyone contributed to the team effort," said Bangladesh captain Mahmudul in his post-match reaction.

"It was an achievement for us to reach the Plate Championship final. But Bangladesh on the day was too good," said Ireland's captain Balbirnie.

In the other match, Canada registered a two-wicket win over Papua New Guinea to finish 11th in the competition.

# Daffodil win ULAB Fair Play T20 Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Daffodil University became champions in the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) Fair Play Twenty20 Cup cricket tournament beating the hosts by 23 runs in the final on Wednesday.

Deciding to bat first, Daffodil scored 104 runs for nine wickets in their share of 20 overs.

In reply, ULAB were bundled out for 81 runs in 16 overs.

State University finished third with a 21 runs victory over North South University.

# Rahman does hosts proud

FROM PAGE 17

"I was quite relaxed all through my round today since I enjoyed a huge overnight lead. I attacked the pin from the word go but somehow did not putt well. Hitting was the best aspect of my game. I also hit almost all fairways. I hit the ball really close on a few occasions and the chip-in on the first was of course the best moment of the day," added a happy Rahman.

Sujan Singh of India finished second at nine under 279. The golfer from Chandigarh came up with a fighting 69 to earn second place at nine under 279. Sujan's round included an eagle, five birdies and four bogeys. He chipped-in from just off the green for eagle on the 14th and sank a 25-footer for birdie on the second.

# Sharmin

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Sharmin has been kept in the squad, but she has little chance to take part in the Games as she is struggling with her form, said manager Hasan Reza yesterday. The events of shooting will get underway on February 1 at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan.

Besides, swimmer Shahjahan Ali Rony, who won gold medal in the 50m breaststroke in the 2006 Colombo Games, is unfortunate that he will not be able to take part in the Games as he has been suffering from jaundice from early this month.

The latest test showed that Rony had his bilirubin level at 5.5 and he will now undergo another test on Saturday. "If his bilirubin comes below 2.0 in that test, only then he will participate in the Games," said Bangladesh Swimming Federation general secretary Mahbubur Rahman Shahin, who, was however optimistic about Rony.

The events of swimming will begin on January 5 at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex.

# Tigers fly to

FROM PAGE 17

February 5 (at the McLean Park, Napier), February 8 (at the University Oval, Dunedin) and February 11 (AMI Stadium, Christchurch).

The only Test match will be played from February 15-19 at Seddon Park, Hamilton.

**SQUAD**  
Shakib Al Hasan (captain), Mushfiqur Rahim (vice captain), Tamim Iqbal, Imrul Kayes, Mohammad Ashraful, Rokibul Hassan, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shahadat Hossain, Shaiful Islam, Rubel Hossain, Nayeem Islam, Aftab Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Nazmul Hossain.

# Golden dreams

FROM PAGE 17

**Nadim Hossain**  
Event: 54kg (Boxing)  
Best success in SAG: Nil  
Appearance: Third time

Nadim haven't had any success in the regional extravaganza in his previous two appearances though he had won a silver medal in the WMCA Cup in India but this time the 26-year-old boxer looks confident to win gold on home soil. The boxer from Rajshahi wants to exploit his 15-year experience in the Games.

**Hamidul Islam**  
Event: 77kg (Weightlifting)  
Best success in SAG: Silver  
Appearance: Third time

Hamidul had to be content with bronze in the 62kg category in the last edition, but this time the Meherpur weightlifter has been doing better in practice to lift a total of 272 kgs, two kilograms more than the Pakistani gold winner in the 77kg category in Colombo. And the 33-year-old now aspires to win gold utilising his 18-year playing career.

**Sajjad Ahmed**  
Event: 70m recurvebow and team (Archery)  
Best success in SAG: Nil  
Appearance: Second time

Sajjad is the first Bangladeshi archer to win a gold medal in the Asian Grand Prix in Kolkata though he was eliminated early from Colombo SAG in 2006. Four years on, all the focuses are now on him and the 23-year-old from Chandpur is confident of winning gold with his scoring 325-30 out of 360 in practice.

**Dolly Akhter**  
Events: 50m, 100m breaststroke  
4X100m Medley Relay (Swimming)  
Best success in SAG: Silver  
Appearance: Fourth time

Though Dolly won the 50m breaststroke silver in Colombo trailing by 1.17 seconds, she has set her sights on improving her timing as well as result in the 11th SA Games. The veteran from Rajshahi first appeared in the regional Games in the Madras SAG in 1995.

**Rasiul Islam**  
Event: 87kg (Taekwondo)  
Best success in SAG: Nil  
Appearance: First time

Rasiul won a gold medal in the Korean Open Taekwondo Championship last year and the lad from Comilla is now determined to transfer that performance into the 11th SA Games at home. The 27-year-old Rasiul has been playing taekwondo for the last eight years.

**Mir Ibn Iftekhar Hossain**  
Event: individual kata (Karate)  
Best success in SAG: Nil  
Appearance: First time

**Jo U Pru**  
Event: individual kata, kumite (Karate)  
Best success in SAG: Bronze  
Appearance: Second time

**Abu Bakar**  
Event: Chang Quan (Wushu)  
Best success in SAG: Nil  
Appearance: First time

**Jo U Pru**  
Jo U Pru in his first appearance in the SAG in Colombo won a couple of bronze medals in both individual and team kata events and the athlete from Bandarban is dreaming of clinching gold medal taking inspiration from some good results in the regional meets where the 25-year-old girl won gold as well as bronze medals.

**Habib ul Rahman**  
Event: -73kg (Judo)  
Best success in SAG: Silver  
Appearance: Second time

Habib won silver in under 66kg category in his first appearance in the Colombo SAG. With the inspiration of emerging the champion in his respective category in Indo-Bangla Games in 2008, he is now looking forward to bagging a gold medal in the 11th SAG. Besides, he clinched gold four times in a row in national championship since 2006.

**Sharmin Akhter Ratna**  
Event: 10m air rifles (Shooting)  
Best success in SAG: Nil  
Appearance: First time

When SAG gold medalist Sharmin Akhter has been struggling with her poor performance to find a place in the national team, her namesake from Magura, Sharmin Akhter Ratna scored 395 in the Asian Air Gun Champions last year and the officials are considering her as a very good bet to clinch gold medal in 11th SAG.

**DAY'S EVENT**

National Cricket League (Four-Day, Day Four)  
Rajshahi v Dhaka  
Venue: Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Chittagong  
Barisal v Khulna  
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium

**Let the show**

FROM PAGE 17

Bangladesh will try to put behind a miserable performance in Colombo 2006 where they claimed only three gold, 15 silver and 34 bronze medals and finished just ahead of gold-less Bhutan and Maldives in the eight-nation meet. Pakistan and Sri Lanka as usual will fight for the second position.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
DHAKA: 1st innings 195 and 2nd innings 298-5 in 96 overs (Uttam 73, Shamsur 134, Hom 57 not out, Nadif 11 not out, extras 7; Delwar 3-76)  
RAJSHAHI: 1st innings 375.

**Ctgr crush Sylhet**

FROM PAGE 17

their second innings for 232 for eight.

In reply, Barisal finished the third day's play without any loss for 35 runs with Anhur Nawaz (20) and Shahriar Nafees (12) batting.

Syed Rasel scored 54 batting at number nine which took Khulna to a comfortable position.

Monir Hossain captured four wickets and Sohag Gazi claimed three wickets for 60 runs for Barisal.

Earlier Barisal lost their last two wickets adding only six runs to their overnight score of 196 for eight in the first innings.

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**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Subordinate  
6 Clauses?  
9 Performance  
12 Percolate  
13 Multi-purpose truck  
14 Shad product  
15 Special domain  
16 Masked bandit?  
18 Not so hot  
20 Pumps up the volume  
21 Miss Piggy's pronoun  
23 Tibetan beast  
24 Wooden box  
25 Twinge, as of hunger  
27 Indistinct  
29 Tale of Danny and Sandy  
31 Legendary monster, familiarly

**DOWN**

11 Take over  
17 Loving touch  
19 Barry and Brubeck  
21 Auto ad stat  
22 Rowing need  
24 Prompt vampire  
28 Deform by twisting  
30 Put into words  
32 Pouchlike  
33 "— not choose to run"  
34 Bard's nightfall  
36 Back-combed  
38 Preclude  
39 Leghorn's locale  
40 Desi Jr.'s sister  
42 Fermi's bits  
45 Scorch  
46 Unyielding  
48 Weeding tool  
50 Jetsam of 1773  
51 Wapiti

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

H	A	U	L	T	A	B	S	W	A	T
U	R	S	A	G	O	E	A	C	H	
R	E	E	D	R	E	M	T	I	R	E
L	A	R	I	A	T	B	A	T	T	E
B	O	A	S	F	O	R	T	R	E	S
E	O	A	B	E	T	O	H	O		
D	O	R	S	A	L	T	I	D	I	E
A	B	E	T	O	U	T	I	D	E	A
R	O	S	E	F	R	O	N	O	L	L
N	E	S	S	T	I	S	E	L	S	E

**CRYPTOQUIP**

LGRWNOC WF HQWNQ DMYDCM  
OGIWKWYF PYA O AYCM WF  
ONKAMRR CMONQLOF'R FMH  
PWCL: "O NCYAWR CWF.M."

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SEVERAL NATIONS ARE FIGHTING OVER SEEDLESS ORANGES, WOULD YOU SAY THAT IS NAVAL WARFARE?**  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I