



PHOTO: COURTESY

India's Adnya Naik moved into the third round of the Grameenphone 24th Bangladesh ITF Junior Tennis Championships with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Tanaporn Thongsing of Thailand at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Aus satisfied with security

AFP, New Delhi

Australia on Tuesday said it was satisfied with Indian security arrangements for the ongoing World Cup hockey tournament and the Commonwealth Games scheduled to be held in New Delhi in October.

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith kicked off his three-day trip to India with an inspection of the main stadium for the October 3-14 Commonwealth event which has been dogged by concern over possible militant attacks.

"Australia is very pleased with the cooperation and coordination about security in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games," the foreign minister told reporters.

"Of course, we have been very pleased with security arrangements both for the hockey World Cup and also recently for the Commonwealth Federation shooting competition," Smith added.

Host India has deployed thousands of security personnel for the 12-nation two-week hockey tournament which began Sunday in New Delhi.

Concern was fuelled by a bomb blast last month in the western city of Pune that killed 15 people and an alleged warning by an Islamist group to athletes competing in India.

Smith said he would meet his Indian counterpart S.M. Krishna and other officials to get up-to-date information on security for the Commonwealth Games, India's biggest multi-sports event since 1982.

Last month, the Hong Kong-based AsiaTimes Online news website said it had received a warning from Al-Qaeda-linked militant Ilyas Kashmiri about attacking sports events in India.

The Pakistan-based extremist reportedly warned competitors against going to the hockey World Cup, the Indian Premier League cricket tournament in March and the October Games. The report could not be verified by AFP.

HOCKEY WORLD CUP England, Pakistan win

AFP, New Delhi

England recorded their second successive win in the men's field hockey World Cup with a 6-4 thriller against South Africa on Tuesday.

Former champions Pakistan overcame the 1-4 loss to India in the first match to pip Olympic silver-medallists Spain 2-1 and pocket their first points in the 12-nation tournament.

Pakistan led 1-0 at half-time through a goal by Abdul Haseem, before David Alegre drew level for Spain in the 65th minute after the goal was referred to the video umpire.

Pakistan earned their first penalty corner two minutes before the final whistle and veteran Sohail Abbas' shot was deflected into the goal by Haseem for the winner.

"The World Cup started for us today," said Pakistan coach Shahid Ali Khan. "I hope this is going to be the turning point for us in this tournament."

"We played to a plan and it worked."

European champions England, who had stunned hot favourites Australia on Sunday, edged past the South Africans in a game where

both sides suffered defensive lapses.

Richard Mantell scored two penalty corners, while Rob Moore, Ashley Jackson, Nick Catlin and Iain Mackay chipped in with a goal each for England.

Marvin Harper scored twice for South Africa, and Lloyd Norris-Jones and Thornton McDade netted one each.

The first 25 minutes produced four goals as South Africa and England took turns to take the lead, before the two sides took the break deadlocked at 2-2.

England scored thrice in quick succession when play resumed to make it 5-2, before Harper reduced the margin for the Africans. Two more goals ensued -- one from either side -- before the final whistle.

It was the first time in World Cup history that England pumped in six goals in a single match. They had scored five against Pakistan in 1998, but still lost the match as their rivals netted seven.

"Scoring six goals means a lot and I am happy with the win, but we were not consistent enough," said England captain Barry Middleton.

"We should have played

well throughout the 70 minutes, but we did not do that against the South Africans. Our defence was not up to the mark.

"We have a tough game against Pakistan on Thursday and really need to work on our game," he said.

South African captain Austin Smith said his team made the same mistakes as they did in the 2-4 loss against Spain.

"We competed well in the first half and I was delighted with the 2-2 scoreline," said Smith. "But we let ourselves down in the second half."

"England were very good after the break and scored too many goals. We were left chasing the equaliser which was not easy against a quality team like England."

On Monday, two-time defending champions Germany came from behind to force a 2-2 draw on South Korea.

Dutch penalty corner ace Taekema slammed the first hat-trick of the tournament to help his team crush Argentina 3-0.

In another group A match, New Zealand came back from a 1-2 deficit at half-time to defeat Canada 3-2, with Ryan Archibald scoring the winner four minutes before the final whistle.

Focus switches to one-dayers

CRICINFO, undated

Life in a more sedate lane will begin in Napier after a frenetic finish to the two-match Twenty20 series, which left everyone in New Zealand breathless after Sunday's Super Over victory. While the short affairs were leading to the World Twenty20 in the Caribbean late next month, the five ODIs for the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy act as a more leisurely warm-up for the two Tests.

The hosts' triumph in Christchurch ended Australia's summer winning streak and gave Michael Clarke his first loss in charge of the Twenty20 team. Ricky Ponting and a few 50-over reinforcements have arrived and will try to replicate the form that led to convincing series wins against Pakistan and West Indies at home.

New Zealand's last engagement in this format was a 3-0 success over Bangladesh and they are on a five-game winning streak, but they face a step up in class. After one poor Twenty20 in Wellington they showed they can eyeball Australia and if Brendon McCullum inspires his teammates to fire the contest could be even.

New Zealand have two new faces from their Twenty20 unit, with Scott Styris available to beef up the batting order with Neil Broom. The hosts have their usual dilemma over whether to include two spinners or call on an extra seamer. Daryl Tuffey was left out on Sunday so he is not weighed down by the carnage caused by Australia as they equalled New Zealand's 214 in 20 overs.

Australia's squad has undergone a makeover with the arrival of Ponting, Doug Bollinger, James Hopes, Clint McKay and Adam Voges. Expect Ponting and Bollinger to come back in, while Hopes is also likely to figure. There is no Shaun Marsh, who is not being replaced after a back injury ruled him out, so Brad Haddin should keep his spot at the top with Shane Watson.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (possible): Shane Watson, Brad Haddin (wk), Ricky Ponting (capt), Michael Clarke, Cameron White, Michael Hussey, James Hopes, Mitchell Johnson, Nathan Hauritz, Ryan Harris, Doug Bollinger.

NEW ZEALAND (possible): Brendon McCullum (wk), Peter Ingram, Martin Guptill, Ross Taylor, Scott Styris, Jacob Oram, James Franklin, Daniel Vettori (capt), Tim Southee, Shane Bond, Daryl Tuffey.

BD-ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for batsmen (Prior, Wright, Rubel, Razzak, Bresnan, Swann, Nayeem, Shakib, Mahmudullah, Swann, Tredwell) and bowlers (O, M, R, W) for England vs Bangladesh.

Man-of-the-match: Eoin Morgan. Toss: England. Umpires: Rod Tucker (AUS) and Nadir Shah (BAN). Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL).

Mashrafe lifts

FROM PAGE 17 rhythm until or unless he asked for it," questioned Faruque.

Faruque's successor Rafiqul could play a vital role in this regard but question was raised whether he has any authority in the selection of the team or taking any decision about any individual, rather the cynics has branded him as a 'yes man' to Siddons.

Since the episode of Indian coach Mahinder Amarnath, the board has given the selectors full responsibility to stop the authoritarian role of the head coach in team selection. And as advised by BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus the rule is still in place but the question was whether the former national cricketer Rafiqul has that kind of mettle to continue with the rule.

'Focus on Indians'

Cricket CRICINFO, undated

Ray Jennings, the Royal Challengers Bangalore coach, is pleased with the progress of the Indian players in his squad ahead of the 2010 season, after the conscious effort made to build local talent within the unit.

"If you look at it, we have pulled back Manish Pandey from the Mumbai Indians. He is becoming a star here," Jennings told Deccan Herald. "Vinay Kumar and [Abhimanyu] Mithun have made rapid strides and we have also pulled back Robin Uthappa from Mumbai. Unfortunately, he is struggling a bit at the moment, but I am sure he will pull it back. We're making sure that the local players are very important."

Pandey and Uthappa played for Mumbai in the first season of the IPL before coming to Bangalore. Pandey made headlines with a century in IPL 2009, the only hundred by an Indian batsman in the competition, and has since risen to prominence in domestic cricket. Mithun recently made his ODI debut for India, while Vinay Kumar has been included among the 30 probables for the World Twenty20, vindicating Jennings' faith in him.

"When I came here a year ago, Vinay was very nervous after playing in the first IPL," Jennings said. "I guess he enjoyed me and my work ethics. Honestly, I believed he can play for India and that was a year ago. But, between now and then, he has matured a lot. I hope he will go on and play for India."

'Day-night Tests the future'

Cricket CRICINFO, undated

Lalit Modi, the IPL commissioner, has said it is vital for Test cricket to shift to the day-night format and become more broadcaster friendly in order to ensure its survival amid the burgeoning popularity of Twenty20, which he believes will "become the dominant format - without doubt".

"I am a great supporter of Test cricket. People say I'm not but I also run the marketing department of the BCCI and Test cricket is extremely important to us," Modi told the Guardian. "All I am trying to do is remind people that we live in a modern age and Test cricket has a big problem: it is played in the daytime when most people are working."

Administrators, according to Modi, should embrace every opportunity to attract more viewers to Tests and playing it day-night was an effective way of doing so. "If you take it to day-night, then people can watch it on TV when they get home from work - or they can go to the stadium. There has been a big drop in Test cricket viewing [outside England and the Ashes] and it's because people don't have the leisure time in the day to watch it."

Modi believes that the five-day format will fizzle out unless there is a change in its timings because the broadcaster will not be interested in it. "Whether we like it or not, broadcasting

determines whether a game survives. Without broadcasters you don't have money to pay players or keep the sport alive. You don't need to fiddle with the format at this stage. All you need to do is change the timing. If we went day-night then we would see a real resurgence in the ratings. Look at Twenty20. It has gone to night cricket and the viewership has exploded."

Modi said the Twenty20 format - three hours for a game - was the ideal vehicle for cricket to compete with football and other sports for new consumers and markets. His aim is to make the IPL the "dominant sporting league in the world" across all sports.

"We are only a two-year-old league but we had close to 3.8 billion eyeballs last year. Every game last year we had 100 million eyeballs," he said. "But because our objective is to become the most watched sporting event in the world we are now targeting 150m every day."

Modi believes that the IPL could develop an edge over English Premier League football because, unlike the most popular league in the world, its unique model was based on team equality and therefore was unpredictable.

"Look, my son is a Manchester United fan and I'm a Chelsea fan - and I was very upset to see my team lose [last Saturday]," he said. "But, normally, we know exactly what is going to happen. My son and I know that nine times out of 10 either Man U or Chelsea is going to win it. The Premier League is basically so predictable. I wanted to base my league on an unpredictable model - so we don't have a Man U or a Chelsea in the IPL."

Howard to head ICC

FROM PAGE 17

"Generally speaking, anybody who cares about the future of the game sees the continuing need to make sure that the different forms of the game flourish; Test cricket, one-day cricket and Twenty20," he said.

"They each have a role and there's room for all of them. There has to be room... for all three forms of the game and for all three forms to do

extremely well."

The self-confessed 'cricket tragic' said that joining the ICC would be "not only a tremendous experience, but also quite a challenge".

"Because any international sport, and cricket is certainly that, has to I guess achieve a balance between preserving its traditional supporters and participants but also making sure that it gets a fair slice of a growing

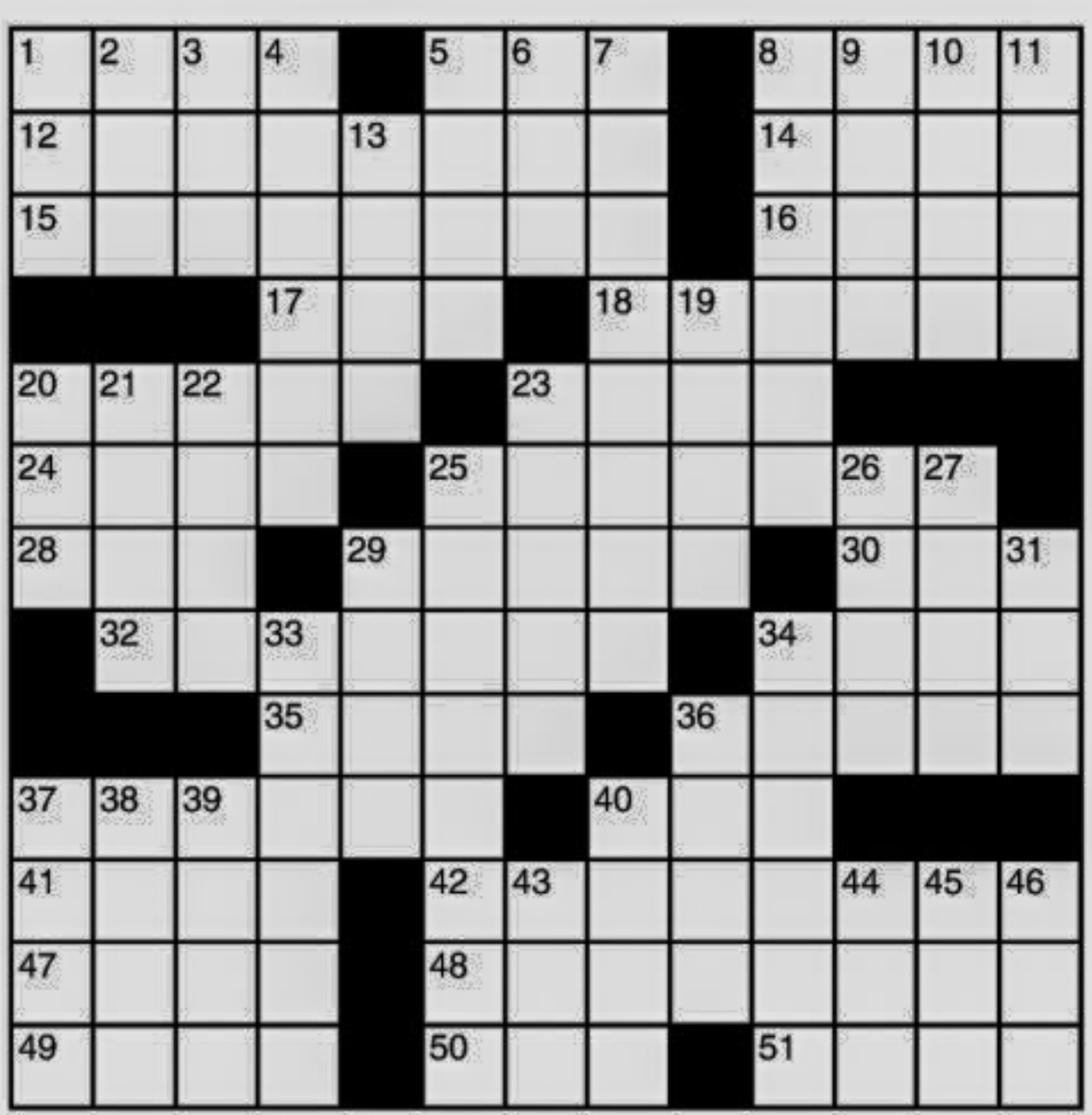
market. But I am very optimistic about its future."

The ICC presidency is a two-year rotating position currently held by England's David Morgan, who hands over to India's Sharad Pawar later this year.

It is expected that Howard will take on the ICC deputy presidency in July ahead of assuming full leadership in mid-2012.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 'Piggies', 5 Quick swim, 8 Konked out, 12 Coin-toss outcome, e.g., 14 Gaelic, 15 Eliot, 17 Spot on a playing card, 18 Com-memorative tablet, 20 Victim of Cortes, 23 Twosome, 24 Dregs, 25 Noted TV weather-caster, 28 Greek H, 29 Foreigner, 30 Meadow, 32 Longtime Indy 500 star, 34 Thailand, once.



CRYPTOQUIP

LAOXUWVF DOW-RW BQHMWDWVX DHIWHD HGAXDWVF BKH DHOIHB QWMHD XR RXIUI DAXLDHD: "BKH HG RWQHD."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU THROW A SWEEPING IMPLEMENT AND IT RETURNS TO YOU, WOULD THAT BE A BROOMERANG? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals I

Advertisement for Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) featuring a logo, text in Bengali, and a table with match details and scores.