DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 18, 2010

Baghdatis stuns Federer



AFP, Indian Wells

Marcos Baghdatis toppled Roger Federer 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 Tuesday, saving three match points en route to his first victory in seven tries against the Swiss world number one.

"Seven is my lucky number," Baghdatis said after polishing off the 16-time Grand Slam champion in two hours and 22 minutes to reach the fourth round of the Indian Wells ATP Masters 1000.

He finished it off with a service winner on his first match point -- after surviving a match point in the 12th game of the third set, when Federer netted a backhand.

Federer's other two match points came at 5-4 of the second set -- when he took a 15-40 lead on Baghdatis' serve but fired first a forehand and then a backhand long and Baghdatis went on to hold serve and even the set.

Baghdatis broke Federer in the next game, the Swiss sending a forehand long to set up break point, then netting a backhand.

The last time Federer surrendered a match after holding at least one match point was in the 2006 Rome final, against Rafael Nadal.

Federer had taken a 3-1 lead in the third set with a break in the fourth game, but Baghdatis - whose head-to-head record against Federer includes a four-set loss in the 2006 Australian Open final -- broke back in the seventh game, setting up the break with a blistering crosscourt winner before Federer netted a forehand.

well most of the time, and don't play well when you really have to," said Federer, who was playing his first tournament since his Australian Open triumph. "It's a pity." While Federer thought he made some poor

"It was one of those matches where you play

choices on the court, Baghdatis was pleased with his decision making.

He said his determination allowed him to stay in the match during Federer's spells of high-level tennis, and pounce on the Swiss star's lapses.

"I stayed there. I stayed focused," Baghdatis said. "I didn't give a lot of points. At the right moments I was more aggressive, I can say, and being smart, playing very smart tennis, serving big.

"I did everything well, because Roger had a great percentage of first serves today. One moment he was playing only with first serves,

"I said to myself that the chance would come, and when it comes, I'll take it. That's what I did," said Baghdatis, who next plays Tommy Robredo -- a 6-3, 6-0 winner over Dudi Sela.

so it was really tough to return. But I kept calm.

Andy Murray, the man who fell to Federer in the Australian Open final, booked his fourthround berth with a straight-sets victory over

unfamiliar foe Michael Russell. World number four Murray beat the American -- ranked 68th in the world -- 6-3, 7-5.

But Russell, who has never reached an ATP Tour final, didn't go quietly, breaking the Briton in the ninth game of the second set as Murray served for the match, putting the set back on serve after Murray's early break.

"I would have liked to have won, closed it out there 3 and 3, but I did well to stay composed at the end," said Murray, who brought it to a close when he broke Russell in the final game.

Murray next faces Spains Nicols Almagro, who beat American James Blake 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

Sixth-seeded Swede Robin Soderling needed just one break of serve to post a 7-6, 6-4 win over Spain's Feliciano Lopez. Soderling, last year's French Open runner-up, fired 14 aces in a dominant performance on serve as he bids for a second title of 2010 to go with the one he captured in Rotterdam.

He holds a 2-0 career record over his fourthround opponent, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France.

Tsonga blasted 17 aces as he overcame a slow start to beat Spain's Albert Montanes 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Spaniard Albert Montanes.

Andy Roddick, seeded seventh, used a break of serve in each set to beat Thiemo De Bakker of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-4. Roddick, who opened his season with a victory

in Brisbane, also reached the final last month in San Jose, where he lost to Fernando Verdasco.



SPÖRT

PHOTO: AFP

GIANT KILLER: Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus celebrates after beating world number one Roger Federer of Switzerland in the BNP Paribas Open third round match at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on Tuesday.

Ganguly blasts bowlers

CRICINFO, undated



Sourav Ganguly has put down Kolkata Knight Riders' comprehensive defeat against Chennai Super Kings to poor bowling at the death and the loss of early wickets in the chase. Kolkata, playing at home, were

in a strong position after taking three wickets -- Matthew Hayden, M Vijay and Suresh Raina -- in the first 10 overs. But MS Dhoni and S Badrinath retaliated with an unbeaten 109run stand to push their team to 164, which their bowlers defended with ease.

"We were not up to the mark in last five overs, gave away 60odd runs. Then we kept losing wickets in run chase. We have to address that. Last four-five overs (of the Chennai innings) took the game away from us," Ganguly said after his team's first defeat in the tournament.

Dhoni and Badrinath began their surge in the 15th over, when Angelo Mathews was struck for a boundary over short fine leg and a massive six over long-on. The last six overs of the Chennai innings yielded 83. "We'll talk about our death bowling, but you have to give credit to Dhoni for the shots he played," Ganguly said.

When asked if Kolkata missed a fifth bowler, he said: "We have five bowlers with Brad Hodge and Laxmi Ratan Shukla. Probably we could have bowled Hodge a few more overs." The Kolkata reply, too, was lacklustre. They lost their two star

batsmen from the previous game, Brad Hodge and Manoj Tiwary, within the two overs, and their middle order, including Ganguly, offered little resistance as Kolkata were shot out for 109. "We played too many shots up the order and kept losing wickets. Hopefully, we'll learn from this and come back a better team," Ganguly said.

Dhoni, despite the thumping win, expected more from his bowlers in the games to follow. "We were worried about our bowling both with the new ball and at the death," he said. "I still think a couple of our bowlers were a little short with their length and on a slow track like this you can be punished. It's an area which needs improvement, but it feels good to have a victory under the belt."

The slowish nature of the track, Dhoni said, ensured a score of above 150 was going to be difficult to chase. "You are always under pressure in this format of the game, but we always felt a total of 150 would be a good score on this wicket because it was on the slower side."

Sub-Junior Chess from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Prime Bank 30th Sub-Junior Chess Championship, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation and assisted by the Natore District Sports Association, gets underway tomorrow in Natore.

Players from districts champion, different schools and clubs across the country will take part in the nineround Swiss-League system tournament and the participants have been requested to report to member secretary of the tournament committee, Touhidur Rahman, by today at Natore Shangkar Gobindha Chowdhury Stadium.

It is the first time that the national junior championship will be played outside the capital.

State minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarker is expected to declare the meet open, said a press release yester-

Rahim just

This means he could poten-

Collingwood has moved to

22nd position after improving

his ranking by one place. Kevin

Pietersen, however, has

slipped one place to 26th spot.

by India's Virender Sehwag

while Hashim Amla of South

for all-rounders, Swann has

moved to third position while

Shakib has dropped to fourth

and Australia go head to head

in the two-Test series in

Wellington from Friday with

both the sides aiming to retain

third place on 118 ratings

points while New Zealand

leads seventh-placed Pakistan

New Zealand will drop behind

Pakistan while in case of a

drawn series Australia will join

Sri Lanka on 115 ratings points

but will be ranked behind

Kumar Sangakkara's side

when the ratings are calcu-

lated beyond the decimal

point.

If Australia win both Tests,

Australia presently sits in

their current positions.

by just one ratings point.

Meanwhile, New Zealand

Africa is in second place.

The batting table is headed

In the ICC Player Rankings

FROM PAGE 17

Wozniacki in qtrs

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

Caroline Wozniacki booked a quarterfinal berth at the BNF joined the list of former champions bowing out.

second, survived a see-saw battle with Russian veteran Nadia Petrova to win 6-3, 3-6, 6-0. Wozniacki turned up the heat in the third set, surrendering

quarterfinal clash with Australian Open semifinalist Zheng Jie of China -- a 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 winner over Australian Alicia Molik.

Open final last year, is the highest seed remaining after the second-round exit of top-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova.

along with former champions Maria Sharapova, Kim Clijsters, Justine Henin, Daniela Hantuchova and Ana Ivanovic.

toppled by eighth-seeded Australian Samantha Stosur 6-2, 7-5. Stosur, who reached her first quarterfinal of the year, next meets Spain's Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez, who beat Belgian

Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland lined up a quarterfinal clash with no-nonsense victories over a pair of French opponents.

mightily in a third-round victory over Sara Errani, turned in a strong performance in a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Israel's Shahar Peer.

Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro 2-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Paribas Open Tuesday as defending champion Vera Zvonareva

just three points on her own serve as she set up a challenging

Wozniacki, who shot to prominence with her run to the US

Third-seeded Victoria Azarenka was another early casualty,

In the quarters, Jankovic will play Alisa Kleybanova, who beat

Wozniacki, the charismatic Danish teenager who is seeded

Zvonareva, the last of six former winners left in the draw, was

Yanina Wickmayer 6-4, 6-4. Fourth-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia and fifth-seeded

Dementieva beat Aravane Rezai, 6-3, 6-3 while Radwanska

downed Marion Bartoli 6-3, 6-2. Sixth-seeded Serbian Jelena Jankovic, who struggled

tially edge closer or even overtake number-one-ranked Dale Steyn of South Africa depending on how he performs in the second Test in Dhaka, which starts on March 20. From the Chittagong Test alone, he earned 51 ratings points. For England, captain Alastair Cook has climbed five places to 23rd spot and Paul

now looks a very distinct it will lose its attraction.

possibility for the Sky Blues.

national players in their camp, the popular Black and Whites, Mohammedan, already lost four points and take on Abahani the day after tomorrow in a bid to close the gap with Abahani, who no doubt will go beyond reach if they can overcome traditional rivals Mohammedan in their last match of the first leg.

the excitement in the league title race, further ensuring that

matches in the second edition on way to their second succes-This will further dampen sive league title.

Pakistan's World Twenty20 squad, including Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razzaq and Mohammad Hafeez, were scheduled to play in Bangladesh later this month but Cricinfo understands that none of the twenty-member

BOA faces

state minister for the youth and sports had asked them to care of it.

budget tomorrow (Thursday)," said Wali.

ming, shooting, basketball, gymnastics and kabaddi.

Mundane season

FROM PAGE 17

allotted twelve in the first leg. Despite having sixteen With one match to go against rivals Mohammedan in the first leg, holders Abahani are clear of their perennial foes Mohammedan with a maximum 33 points from 11 outings and they are still amazingly unconquered for 22 matches. Of them, they were unbeaten in eleven

A hattick of league titles

Yousuf allowed

FROM PAGE 17 to the board to seek permission for the same."

Several members of

FROM PAGE 17

submit another budget to the ministry and he would take "We will submit a fresh

Some 180 athletes are scheduled to take part in 10 disciplines -- athletics, badminton, football, judo, Kho Kho, swim-

reserves) will be allowed to travel as the board wants them to participate in the training camp for the world tournament beginning in the Caribbean late next month. Yousuf who is not a part of any of the national squads, has been cleared to play. The announcement came a

contingent (15 plus five

week after PCB banned and fined seven leading players, on various charges during the disastrous tour of Australia from December 2009-February 2010. Pakistan lost all three Tests, five ODIs and the lone Twenty 20 match on tour. Former captains Younus

Khan and Mohammad Yousuf were banned indefinitely, while Shoaib Malik and allrounder Navedul Hasan received one-year bans. Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal and Umar Akmal were fined between 2-3 million rupees (24,000-35,000 dollars), and put on six-month probations.

tournament in April

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Handball Federation is all set to hold an international handball tournament in April with the participation of seven nations.

Six south Asian nations -Bangladesh, SA Games champions Pakistan, runners-up India, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka along with Yemen are scheduled to take part in the tournament, scheduled for April 5 to 11 at the Surawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur.

"Almost all countries have ensured their participation and we are taking preparation to make the tournament a success," said BHF general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinoor.

He also informed that there would also be held three courses for the coaches, referees and trainers at the same

It will be the third international tournament organised by the games governing body as they had earlier held two tournaments in 1995 and 2000.

F'baller Chunnu's mother passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Anwara Begum, mother of former national footballer Ashraf Uddin Chunnu, died of old-age complication in early Wednesday at her residence in Narayanganj. She was 75.

sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin and other office bears expressed their deep

Anwara left behind six

sympathy to the deceased family and prayed for the departed soul.

Clarke clears

FROM PAGE 17

The New Zealand fast bowler Chris Martin said on Tuesday that he hoped the players would treat Clarke with respect, but Clarke expected at least the crowd at the Basin Reserve would get stuck in to him. "I'm sure I'll get a little bit of

stick [from the crowd] but I don't mind that," Clarke said. "No matter where you go around the world, every country wants their team to win and do well, so we'll wait and see what happens on Friday but I don't think that will affect me too much. "I've copped a fair bit of

sledging in my time, whether it be about stuff on the field or off the field. We'll just have to wait and see [if the players will sledge]. But I have the utmost respect for the New Zealand guys and I'm sure they're the same so we'll play it by ear, but I'm sure it won't affect me."

Int'l handball Imran for total Mourinho's sweet change

Cricket **BBC ONLINE**, undated

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan says the country's cricket structure needs to be changed to help revive the fortunes of the national team.

Pakistan's cricket team is in disarray after a host of players were recently sanctioned after they lost all nine matches of a tour to Australia.

"Pakistan cricket has to sort itself out," ex-all rounder Imran told BBC Asian Network. "The team is a symptom of Pakistan cricket not being an

institution.' Imran added: "The president of Pakistan should not appoint a cricket board chairman, that's where the problems begin.

"The chairman should be elected through regional organisations and, because that doesn't happen, the team basically reflects the chaos which lies in the cricket board. The Pakistan Cricket Board banned Mohammad Yousuf and Younus Khan indefinitely after the tour to Australia after they had

been involved in "infighting ... brought down the whole team". Navedul Hasan, Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal and Umar Akmal also face fines or bans.

still be motivated to play for their country but insists the foundation of the team's problems lie in the way Pakistan cricket is run. "I was a very strict disciplinarian," he said. "I did not tolerate indiscipline but I also know the problems I used to face with the

cricket board which was run on an ad hoc basis. "Without discipline you cannot have teamwork. [But] you cannot have players who are not trying their best simply because they do not like the captain or something.

your best shot. "I do believe that players should be disciplined but the real problem still lies in making the cricket board into an institution."

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37 Nonsense

28 Sister

FROM PAGE 17 during his three and a half year while Michael Ballack threatened with a long-range effort

It was heavyweight stuff with the temperature never far from boiling point.

that skimmed just wide.

Lucio caught Malouda with a dangerously high boot, sparking a shoving match between several players, then Maicon made a superb challenge to stop Drogba getting a shot off as the Chelsea striker prepared to pull the trigger 10 yards out.

Mourinho grew more animated by the minute as he rose from the bench time and again to protest any decisions that went against Inter.

Eto'o had a glorious chance to put Inter ahead when Maicon's cross cleared two Chelsea defenders and reached the Cameroon forward at the far post, but his header bounced tamely into

the turf and over the bar. Mourinho buried his head in his hands and Nicolas Anelka nearly made Inter pay for that miss just before half-time.

Imran says the players need to be disciplined and that they should When Drogba's pass reached Anelka six yards out, he twisted to poke his shot goalwards, only for Julio Cesar to make a brave save at the French forward's feet. From the corner, Samuel

risked conceding a penalty as he wrestled Drogba to the floor but German referee Wolfgang Stark didn't see the offence.

Mourinho lost just one game at Stamford Bridge

reign and he was just 45 minutes away from surviving his first as a visitor. Chelsea weren't going out

quietly though and Malouda forced Cesar into a smart stop at his near-post early in the second half. Ancelotti sent on Joe Cole as the Blues began to run out

of ideas but Eto'o put the tie beyond their reach in the 78th minute. Wesley Sneijder had been at the heart of Inter's few

attacking moments and he lofted a superb pass towards Eto'o, who held off his marker before driving a low shot past Turnbull.

Mourinho had promised not to celebrate if Inter won but the moment got the better of him as he leapt to his feet with fists pumping.

Four share

FROM PAGE 17 winning start on the opening day. All four have now 1.5 points from two outings.

Niaz with black pieces took 43 moves to defeat FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Saptarshi beat her compatriot IM Sahaj Grover, Praveen beat FM Abu Sufian Shakil and Saidali drew against Indian GM Dibyendu Barua.

Apart from those four boards, FM Aminul Islam drew against FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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