PHOTO: STAR

Scene from the Bangladesh League match between Beanibazar and Rahmatganj at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

# Ljubicic downs Djokovic

Tennis

AFP, *Indian Wells*

Croatian veteran Ivan Ljubicic ousted a weary world number two Novak Djokovic 7-5, 6-3 Wednesday as defending champion Rafael Nadal booked his quarterfinal berth at the BNP Paribas Open.

While third-seeded Nadal advanced with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 triumph over big-serving American John Isner, Djokovic couldn't keep pace with the blistering serves and clean groundstrokes of Ljubicic, a former world number three now ranked 26th in the world.

World number four Andy Murray secured his quarterfinal slot with ease as Spain's Nicolas Almagro retired while trailing with an apparent left ankle injury.

Murray led 6-2, 1-0 when Almagro called it quits after receiving treatment on court at the end of the first set.

Ljubicic said he was delighted to end a five-match skid against Djokovic, calling some of those defeats "brutal".

"I'm really happy to be able to beat him finally," said Ljubicic, whose only prior win against Djokovic was their first meeting in Zagreb in 2006.

His most recent defeats to the Serb had come in the first round of last year's US Open, and in the quarterfinals at Dubai last month.

"My serve helped me, especially in difficult moments," said Ljubicic, who gave himself both of his match points in the final game with two of his 13 aces.

Djokovic saved the first, but on the second Ljubicic came up with another big serve that the Serbian could only sail back across the baseline.

"But also two weeks ago in Dubai I was serving unbelievably," Ljubicic said. "You can't beat Novak only with a serve, but it does help you a lot if you can get a lot of free points off that shot."

Djokovic said he knew what to expect.

"I don't think any match we play is different," he said. "It's more or less based on the service and returns. As much as I get in the rallies, I think I have more chances to win the point. It wasn't the case today.

"My execution was very bad and he played well when he needed to and he served well when he needed to," said Djokovic, who won his second straight Dubai Open title in February then won both of his matches to help Serbia beat the United States in the first round of the Davis Cup in Belgrade.

Djokovic had looked far from sharp since arriving in the California desert, having to save three match points to subdue Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber in the third round.

"This is a tournament where I definitely didn't feel comfortable on the court," said Djokovic, the 2008 champion. "It's just because I had a very tiring couple of weeks coming from Davis Cup, which was emotionally very exhausting for me."

The tournament has now lost its top two men's seeds, after world number one Roger Federer was stunned by Marcos Baghdatis in the third round on Tuesday.

That left Spain's Nadal as the highest-ranked player to make it into the quarters as he withstood a barrage of 22 aces from the 24-year-old American Isner.

Nadal closed it out with a forehand winner into an open court.

"I am feeling really well, and I am feeling good on court," said Nadal, who is playing his first tournament since retiring injured from the Australian Open.

"I felt like I played pretty well," Isner said of his first outing against Nadal. "I might have run out of gas in the third set, but that's what he does. He makes you work so hard for every point."

Nadal next faces Czech Tomas Berdych, a 6-1, 6-3 winner over Serbian Victor Troicki, while Ljubicic will take on Argentina's Juan Monaco, who beat Spain's Guillermo Garcia Lopez 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Baghdatis, who saved three match points en route to his triumph over Federer, couldn't hold off Spain's Tommy Robredo, who notched a 7-5, 0-6, 6-4 victory to line up a meeting with seventh-seeded American Andy Roddick, who beat Austraia's Jurgen Melzer 7-6, 6-4.

Murray will play sixth-seeded Swede Robin Soderling, who beat France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-3, 6-4.

Meanwhile women's fifth seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland booked a semifinal berth with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over fourth-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva.

Radwanska has reached her second semifinal of the season without dropping a set, and denied Dementieva a shot at a third title of 2010 -- after triumphs in Sydney and the Paris Indoors.

Radwanska will play second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, who outlasted China's Zheng Jie 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

# Wozniacki pulls thru'

Tennis

AFP, *Indian Wells*

Second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki saw off the tenacious challenge of Zheng Jie Wednesday to book a semifinal showdown with good friend Agnieszka Radwanska at the BNP Paribas Open.

Denmark's Wozniacki stepped it up in the third set to beat Zheng 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, claiming her first victory over the Chinese player in three attempts.

Radwanska, the fifth seed from Poland defeated fourth-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva 6-4, 6-3, denying Dementieva a shot at a third title of the season after her victories in Sydney and the Paris Indoors.

Wozniacki, whose parents are Polish, is a close friend of Radwanska. She said the two talk make-up and fashion and boys when they go out to dinner together, but will keep it businesslike on the court.

"You have to do that," said the 19-year-old who was last year's US Open runner-up. "It's just important to stay focused and don't think about who's on the other side."

Wozniacki was pleased to get past Zheng, who took the second set with a more aggressive game but admitted she tired in the third.

"Both of us played really aggressively and were trying to make the other one run, because the one that opened up the point won the point most of the time," said Wozniacki, who twice broke Zheng in the second set but each time immediatly gave the break back.

Zheng took the set by breaking to love in the final game to extend the match.

"Sometimes even I thought that she was already far from the court, and somehow she made the angles still on the court," Wozniacki said. "I mean, she played really well. She played aggressively, really flat, and we had many long rallies."

Zheng said she sensed a new authority in Wozniacki, who she last played in Toronto last year.

"Right now she has a lot of confidence. I can feel she changed a lot on court," Zheng said.

Radwanska closed out Dementieva with a flourish, serving a love game to reach the semifinals at Indian Wells for the first time after quarterfinal defeats the past two years.

She has reached her second semifinal of the season without dropping a set in four matches.

"This year it's already my second semifinal, so I think I'm doing good," said the world number eight, who had surgery on the middle finger of her right hand after the season-ending Tour Championships last year.

Dementieva was disappointed with a sluggish performance.

"I was so slow," Dementieva said. "I was reaching for the ball instead of going forward and attacking her second serve.

"She slowed down the game a lot and mixed it up a lot. You have to be very aggressive. You have to step forward. You have to create something. I was way too slow."

The remaining two quarterfinals will be played on Thursday, when sixth-seeded Serbian Jelena Jankovic takes on Russian Alisa Kleybanova and eighth-seeded Australian Samantha Stosur was scheduled to take on Spain's Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez.

## Broad also apologises

CRICINFO, *undated*

Stuart Broad has followed the example of his England teammate, Graeme Swann, in apologising for his on-field behaviour in the closing stages of the 181-run victory over Bangladesh in Chittagong.

Swann's ascent to No. 2 in the world -- which he completed with a match-winning ten-wicket haul in the first Test -- was marred by the loud curse he emitted upon dismissing Bangladesh's star batsman in their second innings, the centurion Junaed Siddiqui. Now Broad has taken a similar course of action after failing to look at the umpire while appealing for lbw against Abdur Razzak.

Although there was little doubt about the full and straight delivery with which Broad dismissed Razzak, his failure to involve umpire Rod Tucker before heading off to celebrate with his teammates grated with onlookers who feel that this is becoming an all-too-frequent trait.

"It had been a frustrating morning for us, I rapped the fella on the pad and I knew it was out straight away," said Broad.

# Pakistan remembers Bob

Cricket

AFP, *Karachi*

Pakistan on Thursday paid glowing tribute to their former cricket coach Bob Woolmer on the third anniversary of his death, saying his progressive coaching made a huge impact on the game.

"On the third death anniversary of Woolmer, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) wishes to pay tribute to a man who did so much for our cricket and whose progressive coaching made a huge impact on the game," the board announced.

Woolmer, 58, was found dead in his hotel room in Jamaica on March 18, 2007, one day after Pakistan was sensationally knocked out of the World Cup following a shock defeat to outsiders Ireland.

Pakistani players came under intense investigation when Woolmer's death was initially treated as murder.

Some commentators insisted Woolmer was killed to stop him blowing the whistle on illegal betting, the curse of the game in Asia. But after a detailed inquiry Jamaican police declared Woolmer had died of natural causes.

PCB said the contribution of Woolmer, who remained coach from 2004 until his death and was also a former South African coach, will never be forgotten.

"Woolmer was a distinguished cricketer and coach whose contributions to the game and especially Pakistan cricket will never be forgotten," it said.

"More importantly Woolmer was an excellent human being who enriched the lives of all those that he came in contact with.

"He is and will always be missed. The entire Pakistan cricket community's thoughts and prayers are with the Woolmer family," PCB said.

To honour Woolmer, the PCB dedicated their indoor cricket school at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, which was inaugurated by the Pakistan and South African teams in October 2007, to their late coach.

This year's anniversary of his death comes with Pakistani players once again accused of match-fixing following a dismal tour of Australia where they lost all three Tests, five one-day and a T20 match.

Former captain Shoaib Malik and all-rounder Rana Navedul Hasan were banned for one year -- widely reported in the local media for match-fixing -- a charge PCB denied.

Two other former captains, Younus Khan, who was closest to Woolmer, and Mohammad Yousuf, were banned indefinitely on charges of infighting, while the Akmal brothers (Kamran and Umer) and Shahid Afridi were heavily fined.

PCB on Wednesday sent charge sheets to the penalised players and gave them 30 days to appeal against the sanctions.

## KP hails Tigers

FROM PAGE 17

well too in England when they were there."

However, Pietersen pointed out Bangladesh's pace attack as an area where they needed to improve a lot in order to be competitive against all Test playing nations.

The South Africa-born hard-hitting batsman was critical though of the pitch as he saw it as a deterrent to Test cricket.

"I don't think the conditions are good for Test match cricket. Everyone is talking about where Test cricket will be in five years time, and I don't think wickets like that are conducive to people watching. On the fifth day of a Test match, you expect some spin and something in the wicket, because you need wickets that will produce victories or results. I don't think the wicket was great in terms of entertainment, but in terms of English toughness it was good for our young bowling attack."

Now that the Chittagong Test is gone, and Dhaka Test is about to begin the superstar is looking forward to keeping up momentum.

"The key to this week is finishing the tour well and concentrating on the Test match," he said. "What matters is winning the series and we want to win the series 2-0."

As the tour has gone on, Pietersen has fought hard to rectify his batting technique and has come out with two good innings in Chittagong. Now he is having some luxury to concentrate on his bowling as well.

"I think I can get a lot more wickets bowling to left-handers," he said, "with some that turn, and some that doesn't.

"A lot of the decisions I have got in my career have been down to my bounce and pace, and the uncertainty of where it is going, so I think I can get quite a few wickets. I'm looking to bowl more, and I've actually spoken to Cookie about it and I keep saying to him: 'get me on here."

## Focus on

FROM PAGE 17

why many believe that he can only be used as a specialist batsman in the team but the main question was: who will replace him as a 'keeper?

One change in the team is all but confirmed, as Shafiul Islam is likely to replace Shahadat Hossain, who was ordinary in the first Test.

## Do or die

FROM PAGE 17

injury and card problems made his midfield shaky, but this time he has no such problem and will field a full strength side though playmaker Motiur Munna sustained a minor injury during Wednesday's practice.

The former national booter may also bank on Ghanaian duo Awudu Ibrahim and Sheriff Din Mohammad as both of them found the goal in the last match after a long time.

But, Mohammedan have no such advantage as their striker Nigerian Alamu Bukola Olaleken have been struggling with poor form having scored two goals in 10 matches. Local striker Zahid Hasan Emily, who has 6 goals in 10 matches, is unsure for today's match as he is suffering from fever.

"We have no alternative but to win against Abahani, who are four points ahead of us and we truly want to reduce the gap by winning against them," said coach Maruful Haque after the practice at the BUET ground.

# Win pleases Gibson

Cricket

CRICINFO, *undated*

West Indies coach Ottis Gibson has said he is elated with his maiden one-day series victory -- 4-1 over Zimbabwe -- and is pleased that batsmen apart from Chris Gayle played important roles in the success. West Indies lost the Twenty20 international and the first ODI but bounced back to win four matches in a row.

"Any time you win a series it is obviously a special moment. Zimbabwe aren't rated highly, but neither are we so we couldn't have taken them for granted and we didn't take them for granted," Gibson told Nation News. "We knew they were going to put up a good fight, but we sort of steeled ourselves for that. We prepared ourselves well for winning. Everybody in the dressing room, especially all those guys who were in Australia when it was really difficult, are obviously very happy now with what we have done and achieved in this series."

Gibson, a former West Indies fast bowler who stepped down as England's bowling coach to take up his current post, admitted the losses in the Twenty20 international in Trinidad and the opening ODI in Guyana, had put his team "under a little bit of pressure".

"The home fans were obviously expecting better from us and we had to dig deep," Gibson said. "It was good to see, apart from Chris [Gayle], other batsmen making contributions and getting us over the line. Narsingh Deonarine did it on a couple of occasions and [Denesh] Ramdin got an opportunity to go up the order and bat and show us what he can do."

Gibson said a key problem was the team's inability to win by a big margin when the opportunity presented itself: West Indies lost six wickets while chasing small targets in each of the last two ODIs.

"Of course, we talked about winning handsomely and we were in a position to win handsomely two days ago [last Friday] and we sort of let it slip and the same thing again today [Sunday] where we probably could've lost two or three wickets and won easily," Gibson said. "But at the end of the day, a win is a win for a team like this which has found winning difficult over the last couple of series."

## It's a man's

FROM PAGE 17

he was enquired about the issue.

"It's a man's game, not a game for girls. We haven't crossed the line. Its absolutely nonsense what has been made of the issue. I had do go through lot harder things when I played my first Ashes tour in Australia."

## LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

inter-base basketball competition with a crushing 80-48 victory over Base Kurmitola at their home base in Chittagong yesterday.

AC-2 Mashfique of the winning team was adjudged the player-of-the-competition.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations and Training) Air Vice-Marshal Abu Esrar distributed prizes among the winners.

**BRAC FOOTBALL**

Spring 07 lifted the Intra-BRAC University football tournament with a 1-0 victory over Spring 08 at the BAF Shaheen College ground yesterday.

Tanzil scored the winner and picked up the man-of-the-final honour while Maruf of the runners-up batch became the tournament's highest scorer.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Md Golam Samdani Fakir distributed prizes among the winners. Registrar Air (cdr) Ishfaq Ilahi Chowdhury was present.

## Barca, Blanc's

FROM PAGE 20

Arjen Robben and captain Mark van Bommel scored in Tuesday's 3-2 defeat.

"Maybe we'll avoid the really top teams at this stage," said Bayern's Germany star Bastian Schweinsteiger.

"We're delighted to be through, as that was our target. Let's see what happens in the draw."

Bayern could face United for the first time in eight years.

Lyon complete the line-up after they saw off Real Madrid to deprive Cristiano Ronaldo of the chance to return to Old Trafford.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Uzbek GM Iuldachev Saidali (R) records a move against Indian IM Sahaj Grover during their fourth round engagement of the Six Seasons Grandmasters chess tournament at the Tulip Hall of Uttara Club yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Players of Spring 07 hold the trophy as they pose with the guests after beating Spring 08 to win the Intra-BRAC University football tournament at the BAF Shaheen College ground yesterday.

## CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Vicinity
5 Inhabitant (Abbr.)
8 Detail
12 Paper quantity
13 Kanga's kid
14 Undressed
15 No. 51 on the table
17 Unforeseen problem
18 Sarajevo's land
19 Baffler
21 Frequently
22 Tango moves
23 Antonym (Abbr.)
26 Teeny tale
28 Attack dog, e.g.
31 Island dance
33 Help
35 Ms. Moore
36 "The final frontier"
38 Support system?
40 Gist
41 Brass instrument
43 Mischief-maker
45 Scales
47 Buccaneer
51 Top-notch
52 No. 1 on the table
54 Whirled
55 Listener
56 Monetary supply
57 Fixes a skirt
58 Agent
59 Collections

**DOWN**

1 Bedouin
2 Nevada city
3 Dines on
4 Acid type
5 Zagreb's land
6 Charged bit
7 Tinkered (with)
8 Flat
9 No. 74 on the table
10 Cheese choice
11 Ginormous
16 Irk
20 Penpoint
23 Surprise cries
24 Young seal
25 No. 78 on the table
27 Chest protector
29 Ostrich's cousin
30 Umbrella-frame part
32 Keen senses of judgment
34 Hang on the line, maybe
37 Recede
39 Eastern bigwig
42 Fireplace residue
44 Campus staffers
45 Money
46 Bound along
48 Chills and fever
49 Bivouac setup
50 Make — meet
53 Mouth, slangily

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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| B | O | R | E | D | O | M | | M | E | A | N | S |
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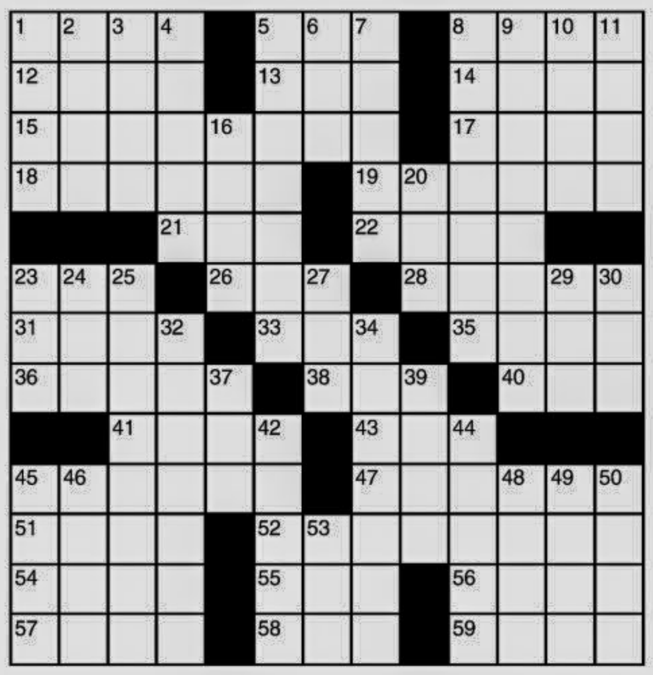

**CRYPTOQUIP**

V H R I Q  B F Q D Q  V R Z D M L G  K D M H P I  R S M A Z  V H R N K A H H N  B F P H Q  S Q Z Z P L U  M L  U R X Q G  M K  I F R L I Q:  U R X S M H P L U  I R G P L M.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** SINCE THE MONASTERY MAN HAS PLENTY OF PROFOUND THOUGHTS, MIGHT YOU CALL HIM A DEEP FRIAR?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals O