



PHOTO: AFP

Spaniard Rafael Nadal holds the winner's trophy after beating compatriot Fernando Verdasco in the Monte Carlo Masters Series final in Monaco yesterday.

Women chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Final phase of Arlin Developer 31st National Women Chess Championship-2010 will start on the 24th April at Narayanganj Club, said a press release from Bangladesh Chess Federation. The event will be held in round-robin league system. Twelve players are participating in the event. The number draw of the participating players will be held on April 23. Participants have been requested to report at Bangladesh Chess Federation office on that day by 12:00 noon.

Div I b'ball starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Bank First Division Basketball League starts today at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium. A total of 15 clubs are to take part in the league. Member of Parliament Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh will inaugurate the event as chief guest while managing director of Premier Bank Niaz Habib will also be present as special guest.

'Bomb attack no CWG threat'

AFP, Sydney

Australian Commonwealth Games chief Perry Crosswhite said the bomb attack that injured at least eight people at a weekend Indian Premier League cricket match was not a direct threat to October's Games in New Delhi.

Crosswhite, speaking at Australia's Games track and field selection trials in Perth, said he had not been contacted by any athletes expressing concerns that the Bangalore attack would deter them from competing in New Delhi.

On Sunday police in Bangalore defused two crudely made bombs found next to the 40,000-seater Chinnaswamy Stadium where the two blasts on Saturday sparked panic among spectators, a senior officer said there.

"These things continue to happen and they will continue all the way to the Games, but [security experts] don't see it as a direct threat to the Games," Crosswhite told reporters.

"It's just another example of unrest in the country and that part of the world and no one has claimed any responsibility."

Australia's discus world champion Dani Samuels said security at major sporting events continued to be an issue for athletes.

McLaren

FROM PAGE 20

tyres, rose to second and then took the lead from Rosberg after 19 of the 56 laps and stayed there.

The result gave McLaren their first one-two finish since the Italian Grand Prix at Monza in 2007, when Hamilton was second to then-teammate Alonso.

It is the first British one-two in Formula One since 1995 when Damon Hill and David Coulthard dominated the Hungarian Grand Prix.

Button now leads the title race on 60 points ahead of Rosberg on 50 with Alonso and Hamilton equal third on 49.

Nadal makes history



AFP, Monte Carlo

Rafael Nadal charged back to clay-court supremacy with overwhelming force on Sunday, crushing Fernando Verdasco 6-0, 6-1 to claim an unprecedented sixth straight title at the Monte Carlo Masters.

The Spaniard also ended a personal dry spell as he charged to his first title since defeating Novak Djokovic last May in the Rome final.

The intervening months have been a test for the world number three, who has dealt with knee problems and a loss of his championship form.

The four-time Roland Garros champion returned to form with one of the most brilliant efforts of his storied career, losing a total of just 14 games and winning three matches with the loss of just one game in each.

"This has been an unbelievable week for me, it was

very emotional for me," said the overjoyed winner, who buried his face in his towel in victory as the enormity of his success began to sink in.

"I'm sorry for today Fernando," he joked to his Davis Cup team-mate, who now has a 0-10 record against Nadal.

"This is the best week I've had in a long time and there is no better place to do it than here."

Nadal claimed his 32nd straight win at Monte Carlo and remains undefeated at the venue since 2003.

Nadal becomes the first player in the post-1968 Open era to win a tournament title for six straight years and gives Spain their eighth winner in the last nine tournaments.

He improved to 16-6 his record at the Masters 1000 level as he claimed the 26th clay title of his career, having lost his only two clay finals against Roger Federer, in Hamburg in 2007 and Madrid in 2009.

"Rafa played really well

today," said the devastated Verdasco, who lost the first six games in 35 minutes.

"He's done everything here the last six years. I just hope he gets tired of winning this event soon and gives the rest of us a chance."

Nadal dominated with seven breaks of serve while his compatriot Verdasco committed 32 unforced errors.

The sixth-seeded challenger looked threatening only once, in the marathon sixth game of the second set, as he forced the fighting Nadal to save five break points to move ahead 5-1.

A game later it was all over on the first match point as Nadal broke back for victory.

Research Laboratories, only after huge interest was created around him on the popular Pakistani fans' website, PakPassion.net. One of their writers was told of Irfan by a former first-class fast bowler Nadeem Iqbal, who was running an academy in Multan; Irfan hails from Gaggi Mandi, a nearby town which also produced former Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Zahid.

The writer, while subsequently interviewing Aaqib Javed -- then with the National Cricket Academy in Lahore -- mentioned Irfan's name to him and Aaqib immediately asked for Irfan to come to the academy. He was spotted by KRL captain Mohammad Wasim, the former Pakistan opener, and an impressive debut season brought him to the attention of the selectors.

Though he wasn't in the reserves of the 15-man squad announced by the PCB, his performances in the RBS Twenty20 Cup and the potential surprise value his height brings have thought to have persuaded the management to prompt for him.

Chargers

FROM PAGE 17

DECCAN CHARGERS: 145-7 in 20 overs (Symonds 54, Mishra 25; Nehra 2-32, Yadav 2-24).

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 134-7 in 20 overs (Collingwood 51, Manhas 23; Ojha 2-16, Harneet 2-41).

Result: Deccan Chargers won by 11 runs.

Abahani

FROM PAGE 17

to decide to withdraw his resignation following the request of the BHF president, other official bearers as well as the national players.

He said that he would decide by May 21, the day of the inter-ministerial meeting ahead of the Asian Games Qualifiers to be held in Bangladesh from May 7 to 15.

A meeting to decide on the fate of the final will be held on May 24.

Chennai move into last four

CRICINFO, undated

A pumped-up Mahendra Singh Dhoni again showed why he's one of the great finishers in the game, blasting 25 runs in the final two overs to make Chennai Super Kings the first team to reach the semifinals of each IPL. Chennai's chances seemed dim after Shaun Marsh's sparkling innings had powered Punjab to a massive total, but meaty innings from Suresh Raina and S Badrinath set the stage for a Dhoni onslaught in a tense finish.

Punjab held the edge for most of the match, and going into the last two overs Chennai needed 29, a tough task even with sluggers Dhoni and Albie Morkel at the crease. Juan Theron had been the hero when the last time two teams met, but he couldn't save Punjab at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala. The penultimate over, by Theron, started with two murderous hits for four from Dhoni, feasting on the length deliveries offered. He looked to repeat on the third ball, but a thick edge flew high and fast to wicket keeper Kumar Sangakkara who managed to get a glove on it. Theron kept it to singles for the rest of the over, leaving Chennai a still taxing 16 off the final over.

Irfan Pathan had bowled the last six deliveries against Chennai at the Chidambaram as well, and he had kept them down to nine runs to push that match into a Superover. This time, though, he didn't have a tailender like R Ashwin to bowl to; it was a Dhoni channelling the buccaneer spirit with which he made his name.

The first delivery was almost a yorker, but Dhoni managed to power it past long-off for four. The next was a slower ball that he topped, but it swirled and landed short of Piyush Chawla for two and Chennai were two runs closer.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KINGS XI PUNJAB: 192 for 3 in 20 overs (Marsh 88 not out, Irfan 44 not out, Sangakkara 33)

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 195 for 4 in 19.4 overs (Dhoni 54 not out, Badrinath 53, Raina 46; Power 2-28)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Invitational table tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup Invitational Table Tennis Tournament 2010 will be held from May 8 to 13 at the wooden floor gymnasium in Paltan, said a press release from Bangladesh Tennis federation. Top eight finishing teams from the 30th National Table Tennis Championship will be participating in the event. Besides, other clubs from the senior Dhaka metropolitan division can also take part at their own cost. Teams will be competing in six different categories. Teams have been asked to send their entries to the federation on their clubs' letter-heads by May 2.

Spurs, who wasted numerous chances to kill the game off, saw Chelsea pull a goal back in stoppage time through England midfielder Frank Lampard.

Earlier, veteran midfielder Paul Scholes kept United's title ambitions alive with a

Semis moved to Mumbai

Two more bombs defused at Chinnaswamy

CRICINFO, undated



The semifinals of the Indian Premier League (IPL) have been moved out of Bangalore and will be played at the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai.

The decision, announced by IPL commissioner Lalit Modi, was made following the two low-intensity blasts at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore shortly before the

match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians was due to begin on Saturday evening, and the recovery of two unexploded devices over the subsequent 24 hours.

"We don't want to take any chances. We want to ensure the safety of our players and spectators alike," Modi said from Dubai, where he is attending an ICC meeting, when he made the announcement.

"While reluctant to relocate the semifinals at such short notice, yesterday's incidents

Sky Blues continue

FROM PAGE 17

placing the ball into the far post.

After suffering the first goal, Arambagh had started to come out from the shield though their toothless attacks could hardly threaten the Abahani backline which was boosted by the return of key defenders Atiqur Rahman Mishu and Rajani Kanta Barman, who missed the previous match due to injuries.

Abahani without the other Ghanaian injured striker, Sheriff Din Mohammad should have taken the lead in the 11th minute, but the luck was not with Abahani as Mehdi Hasan Ujjal beat goalkeeper Masudur Rahman but saw his placing shot go just wide.

Seven minutes into the second half, Enamul availing a fumble made by defender Prodip Barua advanced into the box to send the ball over the advancing goalkeeper to double the lead and the national striker made it 3-0 through his 10th league goal. Enamul was brought down by

defender Parvez inside the box and referee Azad Rahman awarded Abahani a penalty, which was also converted by the same player. Enamul could have struck a hatrick in stoppage time had he not sent a Awudu cross wide on the edge of the eight-yard box.

TEAMS ABAHANI: Biplob Bhattacharjee (Ziaur Rahman), Mohammad Sujon, Rajani Kanta Barman, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury (Shahedul Alam), Pranotosh Kumar Das, Motiur Munna (Abul Hossain), Mehdi Hasan Ujjal, Enamul Haque, Samad Yousuf and Awudu Ibrahim.

ARAMBAGH: Masudur Rahman, Aminur Rahman, Rrodip Barua, Deen Mohammad, Mostafizur Rahman, Parveez, Saiful Islam (Nurul Islam), Kabir Hossain (Romen Roman), Kabuya Domenic, Alfaz Ahmed and Nicodemus Anunda.

Yellow cards: Rajani, Awudu (Abahani); Red card - Nurul Islam (Arambagh) Referee: Azad Rahman

Title race blown open

FROM PAGE 17

against Arsenal, moved into fourth place.

That left them two points clear of Manchester City in the race for the final Champions League spot on offer to English clubs.

"They've been fantastic," said Redknapp of his team. "After the disappointment of last Sunday to come back with these two wins is top class."

"We were even better today than we were against Arsenal, in the first 30 minutes we completely dominated."

Defoe put Spurs ahead from the penalty spot in the 15th minute after England defender Terry handled in the box and Bale, on target in the 2-1 win over Arsenal, doubled the lead a minute before half-time when he beat Petr Cech at the goalkeeper's near post.

Terry, already booked for a foul on Roman Pavlyuchenko, was sent off for a second yellow card offence by referee Phil Dowd after he went to ground and brought down Wales international Bale in the 67th minute.

Spurs, who wasted numerous chances to kill the game off, saw Chelsea pull a goal back in stoppage time through England midfielder Frank Lampard.

Earlier, veteran midfielder Paul Scholes kept United's title ambitions alive with a

stoppage-time goal in a 1-0 derby win away to Manchester City.

There were barely 20 seconds left in the three minutes of added-on time at the end of the match when Scholes headed in Patrice Evra's cross at Eastlands.

"Towards the end, City made a bit of a charge, it got a bit open, the game, and I decided to push Scholes forward a bit and it paid off," explained United manager Sir Alex Ferguson.

City's Italian boss Roberto Mancini, while disappointed by defeat, insisted his side's bid for Champions League was still on course.

"The crucial match will be against Tottenham here (on May 5)," he said.

Sunderland edged Burnley nearer relegation with a 2-1 home win where Frazier Campbell and Darren Bent scored for the Black Cats in the first half before Steven Thompson pulled a goal back for the Claret's eight minutes from time.

Meanwhile second-bottom Hull remained in the drop zone after a goalless draw away to Birmingham.

Australia international Tim Cahill's 10th goal of the season boosted Everton's European hopes as he scored the winner in a 3-2 victory away to Blackburn Rovers.

Everton took the lead at Ewood Park through Mikel Arteta's fourth minute penalty after the Spaniard was brought down by New Zealand's Ryan Nelsen.

But Rovers levelled after Steven Nzonzi let fly with a swerving 30-yard shot in the 69th minute.

Substitutes then scored for both sides, Everton forward Yakubu heading the visitors 2-1 up less than 30 seconds after coming on before Rovers striker Jason Roberts equalised nine minutes from time.

Yakubu then turned provider for Cahill's 90th minute winner.

Bolton all but assured themselves of Premier League football next season after two goals in the final five minutes from Matt Taylor saw them come from behind to beat Stoke, who'd opened the scoring through Dave Kitson, 2-1.

Wolves inched nearer safety with a goalless draw away to Europa League semi-finalists Fulham.

Strugglers Wigan are a home to Arsenal on Sunday when already-relegated Portsmouth face Aston Villa at Fratton Park.

Liverpool, put up for sale by US co-owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett on Friday, play relegation-threatened West Ham at Anfield on Monday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 False god 5 Unruly groups 9 Anti-quoted organism 12 Pond same as above 14 Airport overseer org. 15 Regulated by traffic lights 17 Ever-green type 18 Render helpless 19 Express gratitude 21 On the other hand 22 Blackjack component, some-times 24 Liner, e.g. 27 Fellow 28 Tend texts 31 A billion years 32 Moreover 33 Eggs 34 Blue hue 36 Bachelor's last words 37 Recognized opera 38 Bellini opera 40 Hello 41 Sill 43 She had some bad hair days 47 UN workers' org. 48 Baseball tactic 51 Winter woe 52 Related Solution time: 25 mins.

URAL CBS SHUT SOLO HUE PAVE STANFORD AREA RESELL AORTAS RAENEF AMP BRA ROOTS BAIT ARP WRIT COCOA MAP DEY KURD NRA UNFREE COWPEA GOON CRAWFURD LORE AUK URGED INDIY LEE LEON

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-56 indicating starting positions for words.

CRYPTOQUIP

X Q G T D T H T O D T S M S D Z S M A T C G Z M S D T C H T J X Q E Q H M O D S Q G Z H M, H M A N N E M G H S ' M I D R R G C C D C D N Z E I G M M H T J .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD SAY THAT WHOEVER INVENTED THE FRISBEE MOST CERTAINLY MADE A FABULOUS DISC-OVERY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I