



PHOTO: AFP

World number one American Serena Williams reacts after losing to Russian Nadia Petrova in the third round of the Madrid Masters on Wednesday.

Serena sent packing

Tennis AP, Madrid

Top-ranked Serena Williams was knocked out of the Madrid Masters on Wednesday, falling 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to Nadia Petrova of Russia in the third round.

A superb forehand down the line by Nadal gave him a breakpoint which he converted to go 4-3 up in the second. Dolgoplov saved a match point serving at 5-3 down but Nadal still broke to close out the match.

Tsonga withdrew injured from his match with Guillermo Garcia-Lopez after losing the first set 6-2, and Spain's Nicolas Pietrangeli upset fourth-seeded Robin Soderling of Sweden 6-4, 7-5 to set up a meeting with Juan Monaco of Argentina.

Warne backs Clarke

CRICINFO

Shane Warne has thrown his support behind Michael Clarke as captain of Australia's Twenty20 team despite Clarke's own struggles with the bat.

Gary blasts players

CRICINFO

Gary Kirsten, India's coach, has come down hard on some of the Indian players' fitness and commitment after his side failed to win a single game in the Super Eights of the World Twenty20.

in ODIs, and were not committed to the team cause in the World Twenty20. It is worth noting that only four of the 15 players present there are sure starters in Test matches: Dhoni, Gambhir, Harbhajan and Zaheer.

matches in the World Twenty20. Zaheer, Gambhir and Nehra missed matches at various stages of the IPL, and Nehra was picked for India even before he had returned to full fitness for Delhi Daredevils.

England

FROM PAGE 17 Sri Lanka's next best score was 16, achieved by both captain Kumar Sangakkara, who won the toss, and Chamara Kapugedera.

Hosts draw again

FROM PAGE 17 minutes from time and Sri Lanka leveled the margin through the stroke.

of-the-match Prabhath scored from the penalty stroke to snatch a point from Bangladesh.

Later, it was the spin duo of Graeme Swann and Michael Yardy who choked the Sri Lankans with some tight bowling.

Shakib hit

FROM PAGE 17 game against England Lions which will start from May 19.

Bangladesh again went ahead with Chayan converting a penalty stroke in the 48th minutes and Sri Lanka bounced back to level the margin with Randika Fernando scoring from the penalty corner.

Yuvraj denies pub brawl

PTI, Gros Islet

Indian cricket team's trouble doesn't end with their ouster from Twenty20 World Cup with reports suggesting that some of the players were involved in a pub brawl here even though Yuvraj Singh dismissed the claim.

Bekele still not ready to run

AFP, Doha

Kenenisa Bekele, a triple Olympic gold medalist and five-time world champion, has still not set a date for a comeback from a calf injury that has plagued him since January, his agent Jos Hermens said here on Thursday.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17 Batting first, Dashaara Nabajagan Sangsara were all out for 178 runs in 38.3 overs. Arun scored 51 while Nur Alam picked up four wickets.

Aus-Eng final will benefit us: Clarke

AFP, Gros Islet

Australia captain Michael Clarke had said meeting England in the final of the World Twenty20 would be an ideal way to set the stage for their upcoming Ashes series.

England face Sri Lanka in the first semifinal of the World Twenty20 at the Beausejour Stadium here on Thursday, with Australia up against defending champions Pakistan at the same venue on Friday.

the last 12 months," Clarke said of Australia's Twenty20 record. "We weren't performing as well as we would have liked in this form of the game. We've certainly improved over the last 12 months.

Afridi wants to win

FROM PAGE 17

Yet the kind of off-field dramas that might destabilise rival international sides are regarded as part and parcel of Pakistani cricket life.

situation in England, but we are focused on beating Australia," leg-spinning all-rounder Afridi said. "I think we are feeling good.



PHOTO: INTERNET Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi speaks to the media in St Lucia on Wednesday. They will take on Australia in the World Twenty20 second semifinal today.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP CPW ZGBO INCY UA YNUMN G TPGSOK YCA DS MKOGLUAZ LNO DOIL-LGLILUAZ TUMQPO: "POL'I BGQO G WUPP." Saturday's Cryptoquip: PROMINENT WILD WEST LAWMAN WHO WAS QUITE FAMOUS FOR HIS SILENT Demeanor: QUIET EARP. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals L