



PHOTO: AFP

French Aravane Rezaï plays a forehand against American Venus Williams in the Madrid Masters final yesterday. Rezaï won 6-2, 7-5.

**LOCAL SNIPPETS**

SPORTS REPORTER

Hornets Club crushed Bakshibazar 102-69 in the Premier Bank First Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Gymnasium yesterday.

Rommel scored 26 points while Ovi netted 24. For Bakshibazar Asif scored 16 points.

The day's other match was also a one-sided affair as Wraiths Club mauled Old DOHS 65-26 with Adeb netting an amazing 31 points.

**UNDER-16 TENNIS**  
The Comilla Club Under-16 tennis tournament will be held in two different venues from June 6.

The National Tennis Complex in Ramna will host the initial stages of the tournament while from the quarterfinal stage onwards, the competition will move to the Comilla Club.

The under-16 boys and girls will compete in the single and doubles events.

**DIVISIONAL KARATE**  
Sunamganj became regional champions in the Electra 4th Divisional Karate Championship at the Sylhet District Gymnasium yesterday.

They captured two gold and two silver medals while Moulvibazar came in second with two gold and a silver medal.

Anwar Hossain (below 50kg) won a gold and silver while Rajib Das (below 60kg) won gold for Sunamganj.

Four district karate teams participated in this tournament in six categories.

**New Road**

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Nepali side an advantage with his strike in the stoppage time of the first half.

After the restart, Hasu hit back scoring twice inside 13 minutes with De Cai Su notching his second goal in the 53rd minute and Po Liang Chen hitting five minutes later.

After going down, New Road stepped up the attack and added two more goals with Jeevan hammering in the 77th minute while Nabin sealed the fate of the game nine minutes from time.

"I am partly happy. The boys played according to our plan and the cool weather was a welcome relief although it was not that kind in our previous two games," said New Road coach Yogamber Man Suwal at the post-match briefing.

Hasu coach Chao Hsun Yang said that lack of experience let them down despite having taken the lead twice in the match.

**Tigers suffer**

**FROM PAGE 17**  
each for Shahadat Hossain, Shafiqul Islam and Abdur Razzak.

The tourists slumped after Mohammad Ashraf and Jumaed Siddiqui gave them a good start. Ashraf eventually fell for 61 of 63 balls with the help of eleven boundaries.

But the Tigers slumped badly and were bowled out for 211 runs before lunch on the third day. Max Osborne and Tony Palladino took three wickets each.

Bangladesh take on England Lions in their third and final preparation match, a four-day affair, in Derby from May 19.

**Richards wants to be India's batting expert**



CRICINFO

After India's early exit from the ICC World Twenty20, the former West Indies legend Vivian Richards has offered his services as a batting consultant to help the team deal with their weakness against the short ball. Richards, one of the most destructive hitters in the game, said he would like to pass on tips to teams like India on how to deal with aggressive fast bowling.

For the second time in succession, India bowed out of a World Twenty20 without registering a win in a single Super Eights game, making it six such losses in a row since England last year. India won both their group games but lost to Australia, West Indies and Sri Lanka in the second stage, where teams exploited their shortcomings against the rising deliveries.

"I could be a good consultant where batsmanship is concerned and especially where you have such aggressive fast bowling, I can be a little help at some point to teams," Richards told Times Now, the Indian news channel. "I'm available, maybe they (India) will call me sometime to know how to handle such aggression."

Richards pointed to the match against Australia at the Kensington Oval, where India

struggled to cope with the pace and aggression of the seam trio of Shaun Tait, Dirk Nannes and Mitchell Johnson. India wilted to 50 for 7 by the 11th over and looked in no position to mount the tall target of 185.

"The Australians did put the wind up India that particular day. India has to get to the grips with that," Richards said. "What India can learn from the past is to get some practice against the real aggressive stuff."

Richards' suggestions are similar to that of former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, who recommended that the Indian batsmen head to the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore and learn the basics of facing fast bowling on bouncer pitches. Like Gavaskar, Richards did not blame the IPL for under-preparing India for the World Twenty20, where the quality of cricket was higher.

"India came into the tournament with the most T20 matches, taking in the IPL factor. I don't think it's an excuse in any way. I was in South Africa in 2007 where they won the first T20 tournament and they played magnificently," Richards said. "Sometimes the ball is in your court sometimes it's not. What I think India's got to do at this stage is to see the way the Australians bowled at them and hopefully try and come to grips with the bounce and make the necessary adjustments."

**Oman champions**

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Defeat had the hosts' forwards not continued with their dreadful finishing.

As soon as the match ended, both teams started celebrating. Bangladesh were celebrating at having snapped a dreadful run of ties and defeats and also at grabbing the fifth qualification spot for the Asian Games while Oman had a bigger reason to cheer -- they have won the championship, the first international tournament that they have won.

There was another consolation for Bangladesh, as their penalty-corner specialist became the highest-scorer of the tournament with eleven goals. Krishna was adjudged man-of-the-match.

In the first match of the day, Hong Kong thrashed Thailand 5-1 to take third position, thanks to three goals from Arifali and one each from his brother Asghar Ali and Akbar. Tanakoon Jongtavon scored the consolation goal for Thailand who finished bottom of the table with just one point.

In the second match, Sri Lanka shocked Singapore 3-1 that banished Singapore's chances of winning the tournament, thereby handing Oman the title before they took to field against Bangladesh.

**Shamsur to join**

**FROM PAGE 17**  
Tamim (Iqbal) and the sickness of captain Shakib (Al Hasan) who is down with chickenpox, the Bangladesh team management requested for a batsman as a back-up and the selection committee felt Shamsur would be the right choice as he is comfortable batting anywhere in the top five and is in form," said chairman of selectors Rafiqul Alam.

"He will also get ample opportunity to get acclimatised to the English conditions before the Test series starts," added the former national player.

It is likely that right-

handed Shamsur will be available for the four-day game against English Lions that starts in Derby on May 19.

The 21-year-old batsman has averaged 67 for Bangladesh A in the recently concluded two-match four-day series against South Africa A in which he also led the second string side. He was also part of Bangladesh's Twenty20 squad for the World Twenty20 in 2009.

After the game against what is effectively the second string England side, Bangladesh play the first Test at Lord's on May 27.

**SPOT-FIXING Kaneria, Westfield arrested**

AFP, London

Pakistan leg-spinner Danish Kaneria and his Essex county colleague Mervyn Westfield have been arrested in connection with a police investigation into betting, a club official told the Press Association on Saturday.

Kaneria, 29, and 22-year-old pace bowler Westfield were questioned on Friday before being released on bail.

An Essex Police spokesman said: "Two men from Chelmsford have been arrested in connection with a police investigation into first class domestic cricket match irregularities."

The investigation began in March 2010 following allegations received about two Essex county cricket players.

"On Friday May 14, two men aged 22 and 29 were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit fraud and both were released on police bail until September 15 pending further inquiries."

An Essex cricket club representative confirmed to the Press Association that the players involved were Kaneria and Westfield.

It is understood the match in question was a 40-over win against Durham last September.

**Milan's final flourish**

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partner Giorgio Chiellini closing him down.

The result was a huge gaping gap into which Antonini ran on and although Cannavaro got back to make a sliding challenge at the last moment, he succeeded only in deflecting the full-back's shot beyond Buffon's reach.

It was two of his 28 minutes after more dodgy Juve play as Christian Poulsen's pass was cut out by Ronaldinho, who burst forward and although his pass was cut out by Fabio Grosso, the Juve left back dallied as Cannavaro watched and Ronaldinho stole back the ball before playing a one-two with Pato and then beating Buffon at his nearest.

That finally got a reaction

of Juve and Alessandro Del Piero forced goalkeeper Dida to tip over his rising drive while Cannavaro headed a cross narrowly wide.

But more inept defending cost Juve midway through the second period as Gianluca Zambrotta's right-wing cross found it's way to Ronaldinho at the back post and Poulsen stood off him long enough for the Brazilian to pick his spot and curl the ball into the far corner past substitute goalkeeper Alex Manninger.

In the night's other match Lazio beat Udinese 3-1 in the capital but Antonio Di Natale did manage his 29th goal of the season for the visitors to increase his lead in the golden boot competition.

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**Another dream final**



AFP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal fears the huge game of Roger Federer in Sunday's final of the Madrid Masters after the elite rivals set up a re-run of their 2009 title match which was won by the world number one Swiss.

The title clash will be the pair's 21st meeting with Nadal holding the advantage at 13 wins to seven.

Nadal, crowd favourite and hero at the Caja Magica, moved onto the cup of more ATP history with his stirring 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 defeat of fellow Spaniard Nicolas Almagro in his semi-final.

Federer, meanwhile, put his style on show for a 10th consecutive victory against Spaniard David Ferrer, with the Swiss going through 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

"He's playing really well and conditions here are perfect for him," said Nadal, who could earn a hat-trick of Masters 1000 titles this season after lifting Monte Carlo and Rome should he beat Federer for a 14th time and for the 10th time in 12 clay court meetings.

"He can win a lot of free points with serve and forehand. This court is perfect for him. He is the favourite here for sure."

Federer is looking to earn his second title of the year after the Australian Open and prime his clay campaign for a trophy defence starting next Sunday at Roland Garros.

"It's very strange that we have not played in a year," said Federer. "I'm really looking forward to playing Rafa again. It's exciting for tennis that we can face off again."

"I thought I served really well tonight. David is one of the best returners in the game, he fought like crazy. I was worried. He's always a danger, I'm glad I was able to win."

"I was hoping something like this would happen in Madrid. I feel my game is coming together."

The Swiss star slugged it out with Nadal's compatriot Ferrer for just over two hours, finally earning a key break for 5-3 and polishing off the battle with an eighth ace.

Federer rose to the occasion against the noted clay court grinder, winning 12 of the last 16 points and producing 38 winners.

Another title at the elite ATP level on Sunday would give Nadal a record 18 for his career, one more than Andre Agassi or Federer.

Nadal improved to 14-0 on clay this season and will now return to world number two behind Federer by virtue of reaching the final.

"The match was very close to getting away from me in the second set," said Nadal.

"Getting into another final is a huge joy. It's been a long spring season on clay and being in this final is a dream."

"Whatever happens tomorrow, this has been very good. Not in my wildest dreams could I have thought of winning two Masters 1000 and getting to the final of a third."

Nadal rallied after dropping his serve three times in the opening set against Almagro, a winner this week over French Open finalist Robin Soderling, Nadal's Paris conqueror a year ago in the fourth round.

"My serve was terrible in that first set. Very strange," complained the four-time Roland Garros champion.

The second seed from Mallorca powered through the second set in typical style and went up a break in the third to drain the life out of Almagro's challenge.

Nadal raced away to 4-1 in the deciding set and broke for victory in the final game as Almagro saved a match point before going down in two and a quarter hours.

"The way I was playing at the start was the way I had to play," said Almagro. "I'll have to keep working and maybe sooner or later I can manage to beat Rafa. I managed to be very aggressive and took his game to the limit in the first set."

Nadal now has a 6-0 career record against Almagro, the world number 35 whose last title came on clay in 2009 in Mexico.

**Younus's demand**



AFP, Lahore

Frustrated former Pakistan cricket captain Younus Khan Saturday demanded that his indefinite ban be suspended as the allegations against him were unfounded, his lawyer said.

The one-man tribunal of retired justice Irfan Qadir adjourned the hearing on Younus's appeal until May 29, while a similar appeal against a one-year ban on fellow former captain Shoaib Malik was deferred until May 22.

"Younus is frustrated at the delay in hearing and has

demanding the ban should be suspended with immediate effect," his lawyer Ahmed Qayyum told AFP.

Younus walked away with another former captain Mohammad Yousuf was banned indefinitely on charges of "infringing which resulted in a negative influence on the team."

Malik and Navedul Hasan were banned for a year and fined two million rupees (24,000 dollars) on discipline breaches.

Pakistan's Twenty20 captain Shahid Afridi and Kamran Akmal were fined three million rupees (35,000 dollars) and placed on probation for six months, also on discipline violations. Umar Akmal was

fined two million rupees.

The penalties came after an evaluation committee investigated on and off-field problems on Pakistan team's tour of United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and Australia between November 2009 to February this year.

Pakistan lost all three Tests, five one-day and a Twenty20 on their tour of Australia, prompting the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to investigate the defeats.

Except for Yousof, who retired from cricket in protest, all six penalised players have lodged appeals. The PCB last month appointed a one-man tribunal to hear the appeals.

**Dordoi hold Abahani**

FROM PAGE 17

lose a powerful drive from outside the box that went just wide of the far post with Abahani goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee stranded at the near post.

In the 35th minute, Abahani's Ghanaian striker Awudu Ibrahim released a fine ball for the unmarked Mishu, but goalkeeper Vladislav thwarted the effort.

Four minutes later, Mishu darted into the box from the left to lash a grounder past the goalkeeper, but Korean referee Kim Sang Woo cancelled the lead as Woo signalled that Mishu had handled the ball.

Abahani needed something to pull off a triumph in the second half, but they were at the receiving end for the most part and their defenders were under tremendous pres-

sure because the hosts lost control of the midfield.

Coach Amalesh was not happy with the referee's decision to cancel Mishu's goal.

"The assistant referee raised the flag after the goal and the referee was far away from the spot. It was a genuine goal and we were deprived of qualifying for the finals," said a disappointed Amalesh.

He, however, said that the match was very tight, but his boys played well.

Manager Satyajit Das Rupu criticised the AFC for grouping the teams and urged the game's governing body to open the grouping bringing equal favour to all participating teams.

Dordoi coach Dvoryankov Sergey said that he would have been happy had Abahani qualified for the finals.

He also praised the opponents because Abahani played better football compared to their previous two games.

**TEAMS**

**ABAHANI:** Biplob Bhattacharjee, Samad Yousuf, Mohammad Sujan, Rajani Kanta Barman, Ibnul Siraji (Shohag), Shahedul Alam, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Motiur Munna, Mehdi Hasan Ujjal (Zahed Parvez), Awudu Ibrahim and Enamul Haque (Abul Hossain).

**DORDOI BISHKEK:** Volkov Vladislav, Sydykov Ruslan, Kniazev Sergey, Askarov Davron, Baimalov Azamat Volos Yusry, Mysikov Alexander, Abitov Faruh, Tetteh David Bruce (Muladjanov Artem) and Vlasichev Anatoli. Referee: Kim Sang Woo (Korea Republic).

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

1 Unit of cultural information

5 "Flying Down to —"

8 Gospels' follower

12 Director Reitman

13 Work unit

14 Exceptional

15 Red flier

17 Very dry, as champagne

18 Guarantee

19 Chopin pieces

21 Church furniture

22 Information

23 Killer whale

26 Used 21-Across

28 Childhood disease

31 Pinnacle

33 Meadow

35 Angry

36 Throat affliction

38 Pismire

40 Tend the lawn

41 Act

43 Society newbie

45 Treeless tract

47 What some guests become during a wedding

51 Sea eagle

52 Sweater type

54 Story-teller

55 Yoko of music

56 Creche figures

57 Privation

58 Yang counter-part

59 — school

**DOWN**

1 Cinderella's horses, before

2 Actress — Rachel Wood

3 The Red Planet

4 Ultimately become

5 Urban modernization

6 401(k) alternative

7 Looked lecherously

8 Creeper with pink flowers

9 Spice in Indian cuisine

10 Verifiable

11 Collections

16 Enrages

20 Highland hat

23 Chances, for short

24 On a pension (Abbr.)

25 Cuban port city

27 Afternoon social

29 Expert

30 Stitch

32 Guards

34 Half a pairat the fireplace

37 Fireplay

39 Take care of

42 Luring device

44 Goodyear symbol

45 Vend

46 56-Across, e.g.

48 Thicken-ing agent

49 Carry on

50 Quick cut

53 Blackbird

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

F	A	D	E	R	O	S	H	O	Y	A	
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E	E	L	A	S	S	A	D	M	I	N	
T	U	T	F	I	T						
S	E	P	A	L	J	A	M	A	I	C	A
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B	L	A	S	T	M	A	N	A	G	E	
R	I	G	A	S	A	L	T	F	L	A	T
O	R	A	L	R	I	V	E	P	I	C	
W	A	R	T	O	N	E	B	O	T	H	

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

H V I S M S B N U ' F I S E H X

" BND GHJ CMI SV SJ " SGXDI

L C K K D B E C M L , H E Q D F F

B N D U ' I L D B S B S ' F B Q B Q F .

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** BECAUSE THOSE BERRIES ARE NOT YET RIPE ENOUGH TO BE PLUCKED, I GUESS THEY'RE DIS-PICKABLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T