



PHOTO: AFP

GOONE! Roger Federer looks dejected after being beaten by Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych during the quarterfinal of Wimbledon in London yesterday. The Swiss defending champion went down 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Fed Express intercepted

AFP, London



Roger Federer crashed out of Wimbledon on Wednesday as Czech 12th seed Tomas Berdych clinched a stunning 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 victory over the defending champion in the quarterfinals.

Federer has been almost untouchable at Wimbledon for the last seven years, winning the title six times and appearing in every final since 2003, but his reign was brought to an end in sensational fashion here on Centre Court.

Just 24 hours after five-time champion Venus Williams was ousted from the women's singles by unknown Bulgarian Tsvetana Pironkova, it was Federer's turn to experience a humbling exit from the tournament which he has graced for so long.

Since losing in the first round to Croatia's Mario Ancic in 2002, Federer had been beaten just once at the All England Club - when Rafael Nadal outlasted him in the 2008 final.

But Berdych produced the performance of his life to earn a semi-final meeting with Serbian third seed Novak Djokovic and leave Federer to contemplate the latest in a growing line of disappointing results for the 28-year-old.

After dropping three sets in the first two rounds here, the top seed had produced a pair of comprehensive victories to make the last eight, but those results were only papering over the cracks in Federer's game.

By his own high standards 2010 has been a forgettable year for Federer, who has now failed to win any of his eight tournaments since beating Andy Murray in the Australian Open final in January.

Federer's run of 23 successive Grand Slam semi-final appearances was snapped at the French Open and he even lost for just the second time in 78 matches on grass when Lleyton Hewitt beat him in the final at Halle earlier this month.

After this devastating loss -- his second successive grand slam quarter-final exit, the world number two is certain to be subjected to uncomfortable questions about whether he still retains the hunger needed to sustain his remarkable run of success.

Although Federer had won eight of his previous 10 encounters with Berdych, the Czech only had to think back to his win in their last meeting -- in Miami in March -- for evidence that he could shock the champion.

Standing a lofty 6ft 5in (1.95m) tall, Berdych has the perfect frame to deliver a barrage of big serves and his fearsome delivery kept Federer from establishing any momentum in the first set.

The 24-year-old had never been past the last eight here but he

Mustafa Kamal new ACC chief

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal became the new president of Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

This was decided at the ACC's Annual General Meeting in Singapore yesterday, making Kamal the 21st chief of the regional organisation.

"I consider this as a great honour for Bangladesh," said Kamal.

"I wish to thank everyone for their support and seek cooperation from all ACC member nations so that we can take Asian cricket to new heights," he added.

The BCB chief will be in the chair for a two-year term, taking over from Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt.

Senior Div football

SPORTS REPORTER

Victoria Sporting Club and Uttar Baridhara won their respective matches of the Senior Division Football League at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shamim opened the scoring for the Baridhara outfit in the second minute of the match against Dhaka Wanderers Club before Abul doubled the margin in the 13th minute.

Shahadat pulled one back for Wanderers to make it 2-1 and that's how it stayed for the remainder of the match.

Earlier in the day's first match, Javed's 13th minute strike gave Victoria the 1-0 victory.

Mohakhali XI take on Wari Club in today's lone game.



STAR Sports & SuperSport5

Wimbledon Championships Women's semifinals Live from 5:00pm



Premier Div Hockey League Bangladesh SC v Police SC Time: 4:30pm Venue: Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium

Counter-attack is the key

REUTERS, Cape Town

In the search for tactical supremacy, soccer's big guns and some young pretenders have turned to the chapter marked 'counter-attack' to blast their way into the World Cup quarter-finals.

Mouth-watering matches between Argentina and Germany, and Netherlands and Brazil are next in line while neutrals will no doubt be willing on Uruguay, Paraguay, who are in the last eight for the first time, or Ghana, who carry the hopes of Africa.

Spain marched on by ending the challenge of neighbours Portugal as number two in the world overcame number three in as dominant a 1-0 win as is possible, while Paraguay got past Japan on penalties after the only goalless encounter.

After the 48 group matches produced an average of just over two goals per game, the 16 second-round games delivered just under three.

On the downside there were two monumental blunders by the match officials with England and Mexico on the receiving end, which immediately reopened the debate over goalline technology and even prompted a rare apology from FIFA boss Sepp Blatter.

After the upsets of the group stage when Italy and France were sent packing, the second-phase games went largely to form.

Brazil, seeking to win the World Cup on a fifth continent, looked ominously impressive in a 3-0 victory over a Chile side who played right into the hands of Dunga's team.

With marauding fullbacks and fizzing front men showing the counter-attacking approach they have perfected under Dunga, Brazil were like a venus fly trap and when Chile ventured too close, too often, they were picked clean in an instant.

Brazil's second goal, a high-speed combina-

tion by Robinho and Kaka to set up Luis Fabiano, was a classic.

"Brazil, which has always been the country of attacking football and pressure, is now the country of defence and a powerful counter-attack," 1970 World Cup winner Tostao wrote in a recent column.

"Brazilian football which is admired all around the world for its touch, for exchanging passes and dominating the game, no longer exists. Now it's a game of tough marking and counter-attacks -- often brilliantly carried out."

Germany's counter-attacking was even more devastating, though they were helped by some terrible England defending.

Two Thomas Mueller goals in three minutes moved Germany on from a precarious 2-1 lead to a 4-1 thrashing and came after an England throw-in and a free kick respectively were given away in the German area.

Seconds later on both occasions the ball was in the English net as Germany's youngsters roared forward with deadly intent.

Netherlands always looked in command against Slovakia but they too turned the match by breaking up an attack.

Wesley Sneijder delivered a perfect 60-metre pass into the path of Arjen Robben and the winger cut inside to put his side on the path to a 2-1 success.

Argentina, growing in confidence with every game, Uruguay and Ghana also cooked up decisive breakaway goals and though Spain bucked the trend with their usual crisp-passing pressing game, in general counter-attack has become the tournament trademark.

"Normally, you see the stronger teams pressing but here you have Brazil and also Germany, first they drop back a little bit and then they wait for that one mistake," Frank de Boer, former Netherlands defender and now assistant coach, told Reuters.

Spain want to be Chemistry

FROM PAGE 17

Kaka said, "I don't want to run the risk of missing a semifinal in the World Cup."

Brazil will play the Netherlands in the quarterfinals on Friday in Port Elizabeth. Brazil were eliminated by France in the same stage four years ago in Germany.

Queiroz admits

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"It was an extremely difficult game but Spain moved the ball very well and had more possession and any team that does that can control the game better," he said.

"We did have opportunities to score but unfortunately we were not able to do so, hence allowing Spain to win 1-0."

"We could have scored at certain critical moments, but Spain's victory is justified."

Portugal leave the tournament having conceded just one goal, but it was costly one with David Villa doing the damage.

Queiroz said they would learn from the experience.

"We wanted to do well and when we compete at this level, if we manage to obtain second or third, it is not satisfactory," he said.

room for improvement as Torres still drew a blank and the midfield architects Iniesta and Xavi could still do better. But the form of Villa, now on four goals, could send chills down Paraguay's spine ahead of their quarterfinal clash in Johannesburg on Saturday night.

The 28-year-old former Valencia striker have all the potential to break Paraguay's resolute defence and if the first-time quarterfinalists look lifeless at the top, as they did against Japan, they would be in for a long night.

But it wasn't just the Paraguayans who looked bad in Pretoria, as Japan was nowhere near the side that bumped Denmark out from the first round. Apart from Daisuke Matsui's shot that rattled the bar in the first half, the Japanese struggled in the final third.

Having said that, few expected Japan to make it out of the group stages and a defeat on penalties in the second round is far from a disgrace for a side that struggled for form ahead of the World Cup. In the likes of Keisuke Honda, Yuto Nagatomo and Matsui they have players who have proved their quality on the biggest stage of all.

Chemistry

FROM PAGE 17

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Australia pile up 290-5

SPORTS REPORTER

Australia, after losing the toss, made 290 for five against England in the fourth one-day international at The Oval here on Wednesday.

Michael Clarke was 99 not out while skipper Ricky Ponting made 92. The pair shared 155 runs for the third wicket that propped up Australia's innings after the openers Shane Watson and Tim Paine failed to deliver.

James Anderson, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad and Graeme Swann took one wicket each.

England have an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

Spice Girls of tennis play at Wimbledon

AFP, London

Anna Kournikova packed out Wimbledon's Court 2 as she played her first competitive tennis match in seven years, but the Russian star insisted she could never return to the tour.

The 29-year-old -- still one of the most searched-for players on the internet despite retiring in 2003 -- and Swiss former world number one Martina Hingis reformed their Grand Slam-winning doubles partnership to appear at the All England Club.

Massive wins prop up giants

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Sporting Club's 5-2 win over Mariner Youngs Club yesterday took them to top spot of the Green Delta Insurance Premier League Hockey, despite arch-rivals Abahani winning by a bigger margin in the day's first game.

Although both teams have six wins each, the Motijheel outfit are leading through the goal margin.

Abahani crushed Azad Sporting Club 9-1 with three goals coming from Pakistani Sohail Abbas and Ajit Kumar Ghosh's brace. Salman Sadiq scored the only goal for the hapless Azad.

Mohammedan followed up Abahani with the easy win over the Mariner. Musa Mia struck two goals and one each came from Zahidul Islam, Kamruzzaman and Belal Hossain.

Sonali Bank are in second while Ajax Sporting Club remained in third position. They take on each other in one of two matches today.

Cruyff

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at World Cups, but they do not have that this summer.

"They have talented players but they play in a way which is more defensive and is less exciting. It is a shame for the fans and the tournament. They are one of the teams people want to see."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Old airline initials	1 Characteristic
4 Spinning stat	2 Hoisting mechanism
7 Draw a conclusion	3 Farewell
12 Disen-cumber	4 Seance sounds
13 — Baba	5 Tranquil
14 In grand style	6 Short skirts
15 Blackbird	7 Aware of
16 Mar-ceau's specialty	8 — de plume
18 "Rocks"	9 "Criminal Minds" org.
19 Offspring	10 Shade source
20 Therefore	11 Deli bread
22 Doctrine	12 Whatever amount
23 Con-strictors	13 Kreskin's claim
27 Young fellow	
29 Stain fighter	
31 Climbing flora	
34 Third rock from the sun	
35 Strip	
37 Toss in	
38 Go after	
39 Gilligan's house	
41 Practice pugilism	21 Stream-lined
45 1945 conference site	23 Abacus parts
47 Whopper	24 Rowing need
48 Accompaniment to lip-syncing?	25 Performance
52 Navy rank (Abbr.)	26 "Quiet!"
54 Edge	28 Foolish sort
55 Afternoon social	30 Blazed a trail
56 On	31 Check-casher's two, perhaps
	32 Compete
	33 "— got it!"
	36 Asian cuisine
	37 Reach
	40 Extreme
	42 Dish
	43 Staffers
	44 Alter the chart
	45 Christmas-time
	46 Host
	48 Honest politician?
	49 Actor
	50 Genetic stuff
	51 "Roscoe"

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CRYPTOQUIP

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C K J U C K G V E G V I G C E A
M K R R : " C K H A M U P C K H ."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE SUBSTITUTES ONE FABRIC SAMPLE IN PLACE OF ANOTHER, I SUPPOSE HE SWITCHES SWATCHES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals N