



Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia balances the trophy on her hand as she celebrates after defeating Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the final of the WTA San Diego Open in Carlsbad on Sunday.

Kuznetsova triumphs

Tennis

AGENCIES, San Diego

Svetlana Kuznetsova squandered four match points before outlasting Polish fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 on Sunday to win the WTA San Diego Open.

The Russian blew four match points in the second set tiebreak to gift Radwanska the set but roared back to life in the third to take her first title in 10 months.

"This just made me stronger. It didn't kill me," Kuznetsova said. "I didn't kill myself in the third set."

"I just shook," said Kuznetsova, playing in her first final of the year. "The trophy was very important to me. I was very embarrassed and I just got it back together and dictated."

Kuznetsova captured her 13th career title at the 700,000-dollar hardcourt event, a tune-up for the US Open, and it

was the first crown for the 21st-ranked veteran since she beat Radwanska in the Beijing final last October.

The two-time Grand Slam champion botched four match points in the second set tie-breaker after squandering leads of 4-0 and 6-3, double-faulting twice on match point to open the door for 10th-ranked Radwanska to force a third set.

She said she had a fit during a break between the second and third sets that she said helped her to get her nerves calmed down.

"I think I did choke for the very first time in my life," Kuznetsova said. "I never had this choke before. I don't know why it happened. Here I couldn't make a ball. My knees were shaking and I couldn't push on my serve and now I know why people double fault on match points. It was very hard to close."

After falling behind 2-1 to start the third set, Kuznetsova grabbed control of the match from just inside the baseline with a series of winners before clinching

the title with a backhand down the line.

"To play that bad at end of the second set and then to let her come back and see me choke, I had to be twice as strong in the third set and I was," said Kuznetsova.

"It's pretty funny now that I won the match, but if I lost I might be thinking: 'should I finish playing tennis? I doubt it will happen again.'"

It was the first final for both players since 10 months ago in China.

Kuznetsova, who won three titles in 2009, will jump back into the WTA's top 20 with the title after reaching only one prior quarterfinal this year. She had not tumbled outside the top 20 since February of 2004.

Radwanska will advance to ninth but that was little consolation.

"It's always disappointing when it's a long, very tough match," Radwanska said. "I think it's much easier to lose 6-1, 6-1 and have no chance. But if it's a match like this, it hurts."

Baridhara hold Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Uttar Baridhara came from two goals down to hold Wari Club to a 2-2 draw in the Bashundhara Senior Division Football's Super League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Shaheen and Tanzim struck for Wari Club in the seventh and 13th minutes respectively before Dulal and Swapan pulled back in the 22nd and 34th minutes to snatch a valuable point.

In the relegation match, Mohakhali XI beat Agrani Bank 3-1 at the same venue.

Mohammad Ali struck twice while Sachchu scored the other for Mohakhali. Ripon netted the consolation goal for Agrani.

David ends

FROM PAGE 17

Baghdatis went only 2-of-11 on break-point chances in the second set and managed to win only 4-of-13 points off his second serves in the first.

"He's a pain in the ass when he plays good," Baghdatis said. "He played really good. Well done David. I'm glad you came back and I hope you have a great year."

After trading four service breaks and battling each other in nearly every game of the second set, they fought into the tie-breaker. Nalbandian rolled to a 5-0 lead and went on to win after two hours.

Baghdatis, ranked 25th, failed in a bid for his fifth career ATP title. He will move to 21st after a rankings slide from the top 150 last year with wrist and back injuries.

"I'm positive about the future even though I'm disappointed to lose," he said.

Tri-series

FROM PAGE 17

Bradley-John Watling all looked in good form in warm-up games, each scoring a half-century.

Sri Lanka have excellent batsmen in skipper Kumar Sangakkara, opener Tillakaratne Dilshan and Mahela Jayawardene, but need to put in a consistent all-round performance to taste success at home.

Their bowling attack looks depleted in the absence of the veteran duo of off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran and seamer Chaminda Vaas, who were not considered for the tournament.

The rivals are preparing for the World Cup that will be hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in February-March next year.

TEAMS

INDIA (probable): Virender Sehwag, Dinesh Karthik or Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Vijay Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Praveen Kumar, Abhinav Mithun, Pragyan Ojha, Ashish Nehra.

NEW ZEALAND (probable): Martin Guptill, Peter Ingram, Ross Taylor (captain), Kane Williamson, Scott Styris, Grant Elliott, Gareth Hopkins, Nathan McCullum, Daryl Tuffey, Kyle Mills, Tim Southee or Andy McKay.

ICC appoints Isaac

Cricket

AFP, Dubai

The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed New Zealand's Alan Isaac as its vice-president on Monday.

Cricket Australia (CA) and New Zealand Cricket (NZC), whose turn it was to put forward a candidate for the post, opted for Isaac after their original nomination, former Australia Prime Minister John Howard, failed to get sufficient backing from the ICC board.

Sir John Anderson, the man Howard beat for the original nomination and Isaac's predecessor as NZC chairman, then ruled himself out.

Isaac, an experienced cricket administrator and former captain of Wellington's 2nd XI, has been the NZC chairman since 2008.

An accountant by profession, Isaac is also an ICC director.

He is now set to hold the vice-presidency of ICC, cricket's global governing body, in two years' time.

"It is a great honour and privilege to be confirmed as the ICC vice-president," Isaac said in a statement issued from the organisation's Dubai headquarters.

"I am looking forward to serving our great sport at international level and protecting the primacy of international cricket."

Sharad Pawar, the Indian president of ICC, added: "I am delighted to announce Alan Isaac's nomination for the role of ICC vice-

president was unanimously endorsed by the ICC executive board and the full ICC council, by circular resolution, has also approved the recommendation of the board."

Haroon Lorgat, the ICC chief executive, said: "Alan is determined to build context and content in the future tours programme for international cricket while maintaining the primacy of the ICC global events."

"I am looking forward to working with him." The ICC rejected Howard -- following a reported revolt by its leading African and Asian nations -- on July 1 and asked CA and NZC to nominate someone else by August 31.

Isaac, 58, denied on Saturday he was a third-rate choice or an ICC 'puppet'.

"I don't feel like second or third pick and if you talk to anyone who knows me, I'm not a puppet, I am my own person," he told The Australian newspaper.

"I'd like to think I'm judged on what I achieve or what I don't achieve in two, three or four years' time."

Lorgat has repeatedly declined to disclose why Howard's bid failed.

But the rejection of Howard, Australia's Prime Minister from 1996 to 2007, is believed to have stemmed from his very public opposition to Robert Mugabe's government in Zimbabwe.

He also incurred the wrath of the powerful Asian cricket bloc in 2004 by labelling Sri Lankan legend Muttiah Muralidaran a "chucker," or someone with an illegal bowling action.

Several Test nations also objected to Howard because, unlike Isaac or Anderson, he had no previous experience of cricket administration.

Haider puts personal pain aside for team

Cricket

REUTERS, Birmingham

Zulqarnain Haider overcame personal anguish over his ill father to produce the innings of his life on his Test debut to give Pakistan a fighting chance of an unlikely win over England on Sunday.

Haider scored 88 after coming in with his team struggling on 82 for five. He turned the match on its head when it seemed England were nearing an innings win to go 2-0 up in the four-match series. Instead, by the close of the third day, Pakistan had a lead of 112 runs and were eyeing a fairytale win.

The lanky 24-year-old wicketkeeper, picked ahead of the out-of-form Kamran Akmal, is enduring a difficult time while his father is in a Pakistani hospital where he is 'stable' with hepatitis Ch having been brought out of a coma.

"[Haider's father] was a bit better, I hope and pray he comes through and that the stress goes for Zulq," Pakistan captain Salman Butt told reporters at Edgbaston.

"The last time I spoke to him he wasn't that well, I don't know about today but I will ask him tonight."

Haider, whose mother died of cancer 10 years ago, is donating half of his match fee to the Shawkat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in Lahore in her memory.

Haider combined in partnerships of 52 with Mohammad Amir and 115 with Saeed Ajmal. This was after he looked to have bagged the unwanted tag of a 'king pair' when given out lbw to Graeme Swann first ball. But a referral showed the ball had turned too much.

"He showed great ability under pressure," said Butt. "Emotionally he's been under a lot of stress for quite a few days. It is remarkable the way he has played and he has shown us all that if you are willing to stay there and take the pain, you surely gain."

Haider faced 200 deliveries and demonstrated strength of character while England's bowlers threw everything at him -- literally.

Fast bowler Stuart Broad became so frustrated when Haider was on 22 that he hurled the ball at him and struck him on the shoulder. The fact he remained for a good deal longer said much about his resolve, especially on his debut.

"He did really well considering he could

have had a king pair if we didn't have a review system," Swann said. "It would have been one of the most talked-about debuts for the wrong reasons."

"But all credit to him. He was annoying in the way he wouldn't get out and he was trying to wind us up with his running between the wickets and stuff like that but that is all part of cricket and I take my hat off to him. He applied himself really well."



Pakistan debutant Zulqarnain Haider acknowledges the crowd's applause on reaching his fifty in the second innings against England at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Aussies keep

FROM PAGE 17

Spain earned a second penalty corner, converted by Roc Oliva who fired high inside the right post.

The Spanish took command early in the second half with skipper Santi Freixa driving in a loose ball and Oliva converting the team's third penalty corner chance.

Simon Child gave New Zealand hope of a comeback by cutting the deficit.

Wilson hit a penalty corner into the middle of the net minutes after Child's goal only to have the goal disallowed following a video referral by Spain as the ball did not travel five metres outside the circle before the hit into goal.

Andrew Hayward had a chance to convert a sixth penalty corner which was deflected out by Spain.

New Zealand launched their own video referral, based on Spain's defenders being over the line at the start of the corner, but had the appeal denied.

"Once we get past this result and the results early in the tournament we can see we have made a lot of progress and we will continue to make progress when we get home," said New Zealand coach Shane McLeod.

New Zealand had defeated the Netherlands 3-1 earlier in the event, only their second win in Champions Trophy history and first since 1978.

Blanket

FROM PAGE 17

Test-best six wickets for 65 runs in Pakistan's second innings and named man-of-the-match.

Pakistan were all but beaten in this match on Friday when, for the second innings in a row, they were bowled out for a record low score against England after they made 80 at Trent Bridge.

Not since the 19th Century had a team been bowled out for 72 or fewer in their first innings and still won a Test.

Pakistan captain Salman Butt opted to bat first in overcast conditions ideally suited to England's seamers. James Anderson (four for 20) and Stuart

Gatlin's third in a row

Athletics

AFP, Tallinn

Disgraced former Olympic 100 metres champion Justin Gatlin made it three wins from three races since returning from a four year doping suspension as he won here on Sunday.

The 28-year-old -- who failed a dope test for testosterone three months after equalling Asafa Powell's then world record of 9.77sec in 2006 -- timed 10.17sec running into a headwind, beating home unheralded compatriot Ruben

Williams (10.25sec).

Gatlin, whose stated aim is to gain selection for the 2012 Olympics in London, had returned to action by winning two 100m races at the meet in Rakvere, Estonia, last Tuesday.

Gatlin, world champion in 2005 in both the 100m and 200m, is barred from all the leading European meets.

"I am very glad with the result today [Sunday]," Gatlin told AFP.

"My aim was to be better than at the last competition and I betted that today by seven hundredths of a second."

Gatlin, who lost 20 pounds

over the past year as he battles to regain his place among the leading sprinters, was adamant when asked whether he was looking to qualifying for the 2012 Olympics and a bid to regain the title he won in Athens in 2004.

"Yes, definitely," said Gatlin. However, he conceded that any dreams of rivaling the times being run by the leading trio of Usain Bolt, Tyson Gay and Powell were firmly on the back burner.

"I am taking my return at the moment with a modest aim -- the only aim I have in front of me is to be better than last time at every competition," he said.

Gatlin had a special word of gratitude for those people who had stayed faithful to him and his ability, especially as he has always protested his innocence.

"I wish to thank all my fans -- I want to thank them more than ever. It's easy to have lot of fans when you are the top and all is well. So I really do appreciate a lot all the support I have got from the fans who have remained with me," said Gatlin.

His mother Jeanette was trackside to watch her son compete and condemned the sanction imposed on him.

"I feel it [the four-year ban] was unjust, very unjust and here in Estonia I have felt so happy for him," she told AFP. "I really hope he will make a good comeback."

Gatlin, who during his ban vainly tried his luck with three NFL teams as a wide receiver without being drafted, declined to comment.

"I am dedicating myself fully to sport now and am planning to return more strongly next season," Gatlin said.

His next competition will be in Joensuu in Finland on August 21 and he also plans to return to Tallinn during the indoor season.



Former Olympic champion Justin Gatlin gestures after finishing first in the men's 100-metre race in ERGO World Games Tallinn at the Estonian capital on Sunday.

with both bat and ball in the same match, added 115 for the eighth wicket as blue skies reduced England's swing threat.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: First innings 72 (Amin 23, U Akmal 17; Anderson 4-20, S Broad 4-38, Finn 2-10) and second innings 296 (Haider 88, Ajmal 50, Farhat 29; Swann 6-65, Broad 2-66)

ENGLAND: First innings 251 (Pietersen 80, Trott 55; Ajmal 5-82) and second innings 118 for 1 (Strauss 53 not out, Trott 53 not out; Aamer 1-31)

Result: England won by nine wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Graeme Swann.

England go 2-nil up

FROM PAGE 17

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Pakistan captain Salman Butt opted to bat first in overcast conditions ideally suited to England's seamers. James Anderson (four for 20) and Stuart

Broad (four for 38) cashed in as Pakistan again struggled against the swinging ball.

England then made 251, thanks mainly to a third-wicket stand of 133 between South Africa-born batsmen Pietersen (80) and Trott (55).

Ajmal, recalled in place of leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, took five for 82.

But Pakistan were once more left lamenting their poor fielding after dropping six catches.

They collapsed to 82 for five in their second innings.

But Zulqarnain and Ajmal, whose 50 meant he returned Test-best figures

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Center of activity
6 Common-est
9 Wander (about)
12 Apportion
13 Razor-billed bird
14 Blackbird
15 Speak sheepish-ly?
16 Splits
18 Palin territory
20 Galvanizing matter
21 Rowing need
23 Kinsman (Abbr.)
24 Division of a long poem
25 Movie
27 Katmandu's land
29 Poultry purchases
31 Puts up
35 "Monopoly" cards
37 Lotion additive
38 Brightened

DOWN

1 Fairy queen
2 Blueprint addition
3 "It should be obvious, ..."
4 Shade of black
5 Oil of roses
6 Fishing gear
7 Luau entertainment
8 Supplement, with "out"
9 MacLeod of "The Love Boat"
10 Concerning
11 1970s music style
17 Rhododendron's kin
19 Feel
21 Vacation-ing
22 Melody
24 Gridlock component
26 She's had some bad hair days
28 Linguine sauce
30 Agt.
32 Like
33 Plaything
34 Witness
36 Rehearsal
38 Lomond and Ness
39 Cove
40 Infinitesimal
42 Fine china
45 Note to the staff
46 Aware of
48 Just out
50 Chowed down
51 Third degree?

Solution time: 25 mins.

MAAM P I E E P I C
A L B A A I L R A R E
S T U D N I B A N O N
H O T R O D A B S E N T
A X E R E L
A M P S M E M O R I Z E
T O E T R A N E W
M O T O R C A R O G E E
E G O Z O O
B A R L E Y I N D E E D
R I P E A L P L I A U
A D A R L E A E R S E
Y E N S E O N S O T S

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CRYPTOQUIP

N Z B W G F Z L M Z Z O V L F G F L E X
W B Z Y S W L E O G E B S G W S L R E
V W Y M , S I Z Y Z V L X I S N Z W E
W O R F S Y R O I Z B W S W F S Y R O I Z .

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: WHO WAS GIVING THE ARMY SERVICEMEN ORDERS ON HOW TO PROPERLY MAKE PICKLES? THE DILL SERGEANT. Today's Cryptiquip Clue: N equals B