

## Walton nat'l volleyball

SPORTS REPORTER

The semifinal line-up of the Walton 25th men's National Volleyball Championship was completed after Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Air Force and Chittagong University beat their respective rivals in the quarterfinals at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

Army routed Sakhira 3-0 to set up the semifinal clash against Chittagong University, who beat Bangladesh Police 3-2. Navy defeated Board Guard of Bangladesh 3-1 to play in the semis against Air Force, who crushed Khulna 3-0.

In the men's championship, Ansar & VDP take on Gazipur and BJMC play against Rajshahi in the semi-final to be held today along with the semifinals of the men's section.

## Caroline's Julia shock

AFP, Stuttgart

Julia Goerges stunned world number one Caroline Wozniacki 7-6, 6-3 to win the Stuttgart WTA claycourt title on Sunday, becoming the first German champion here in 17 years.

The 22-year-old Goerges collected only her second career title to add to her 2010 Bad Gastein trophy, 17 years after Anke Huber won the second of her Stuttgart crowns in 1994.

"I don't quite know how I did it," admitted the German. "Against Caroline, it is always as if you have to climb a high mountain. Now I have done it, I can't quite believe it."

Goerges, who sent down 38 winners to Wozniacki's nine, will now break into the top 30 for the first time in her career.

It was Wozniacki's second final defeat in 2011 after losing to Russia's Vera Zvonareva in Doha in February.

The 20-year-old Dane was stunned in her bid for her fourth title of the year, after wins at Dubai, Indian Wells and Charleston, as Goerges grew in confidence as the final wore on.

"Julia played really well," admitted the 20-year-old top seed.

"She was very aggressive and everything was going in. I tried everything but it wasn't enough. I'll go back to the practice court and try to be better next time."

## Alam boli

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and Ward Commissioners Jahor Lal Hazari and Hasan Mahmud Hasni were present as special guests.

The competition started with the beating of traditional 'Dabor' (one kind of folk drum) and blowing of 'Sanai' (a folk flute).

The competition was split into two segments. First a general session was held where 68 bolis participated and out of them 34 won the prizes.

In the main bout, a total of eight bolis, who are known as champion bolis, took part.

Mayor Manjur Alam handed over the champion and runner-up's trophies.

Mobile phone company Banglalink sponsored the event and satellite television Channel i telecast the programme.

## Spin destroys

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The Academy teams will now travel to Chittagong to play the first two one-dayers at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium on April 28 and April 30. The third and final one-day and two T20 matches will be held at Mirpur.

## SCORES IN BRIEF GP-BCB ACADEMY: First innings 479 SA CRICKET ACADEMY: First innings 199 all out and second innings 155 all out in 40.1 overs (Hendricks 13, Van Wyk 14, Terblanche 21, Viljoen 49, De Lange 27; Sanjamul 4-45, Shaker 5-73) Result: GP-BCB National Cricket Academy won by an innings and 125 runs.

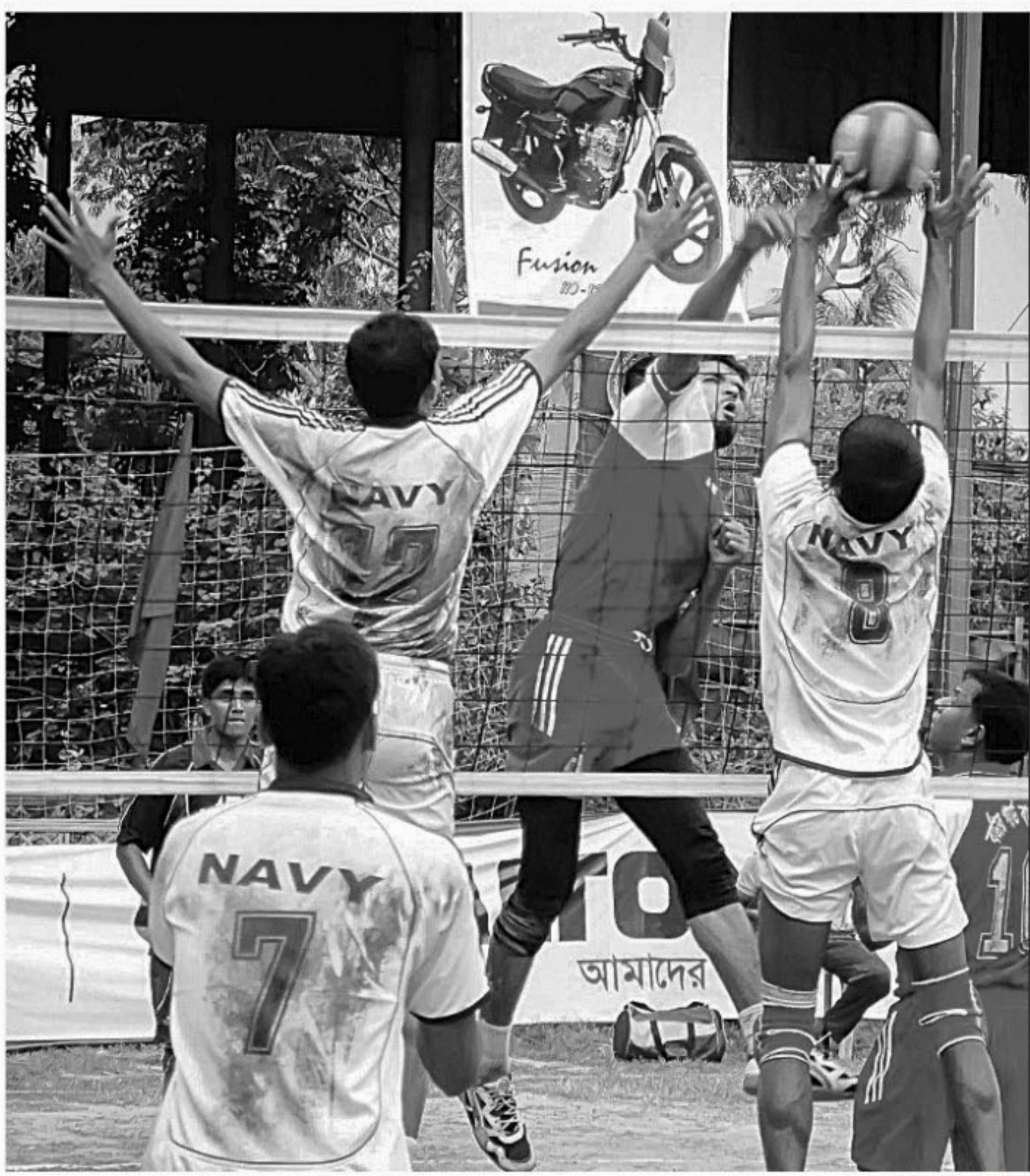


PHOTO: STAR  
A Navy player attempts to block a smash from his Border Guard Bangladesh opponent during the quarterfinals of the Walton National Volleyball Championship at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday.

## Players to work to make league attractive

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The country's top footballers have been urged to be more responsible to make the Bangladesh League attractive in a bid to bring the spectators at the big bowl following the successful completion of the Independence Cup football tournament.

A good number of spectators turned up to watch the Independence Cup final clash between two less illustrious sides, Farashganj SC and Sheikh Russel KC, despite the absence of traditional powerhouse likes Abahani, Mohammedan, Muktiyoddha, Brothers and that eventually proved that the spectators are yet to give up the habit of watching the game from galleries.

The second-leg of the professional football league will resume tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium with giants Abahani locking horns against a star-studded Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi.

Having met with the BFF high-ups including president Kazi Salahuddin, the players also agreed that they have some responsibilities to make the league competitive and sought the cooperation from both officials of the federation and the clubs.

"I never thought that a good number of spectators would turn up to watch this match but I was wrong. I think the spectators could have been bigger if a team likes Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, Abahani or Mohammedan could play the final," said national team midfielder Mamunul Islam.

"We appreciate the regular football that is happening and I think our performance has been improving," said Mamun, who is also a player of Sheikh Jamal.

"This type of meeting should have been held before. We also think we have something to do as the federation has been doing a lot to revive the country's football. At the same time, the club officials will have to assist the players," said national captain Zahid Hasan Emily.

Later, speaking to the journalists, Kazi Salahuddin said that he urged the players to guard against match fixing and let them know if they have any information about it.

The BFF boss also emphasised on the need of individual training beyond the club training if he wants to see himself as a star player.

The BFF originally organised the meeting to let the players know about the new-system bonus for the national duty as well as to see the players' problems and take suggestions from them to improve the standard of Bangladesh football.

"In line with the merit of the tournaments, the bonus will be declared for the national players and winning bonus will only be given if the opponents are higher ranking side then us," said Badal Roy, chairman of the National Team Management Committee.

## Pak keeper back home

Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

Runaway former Pakistan wicketkeeper Zulqarnain Haider returned home from Britain on Monday after receiving government assurances about the safety of his family.

Haider, who turned 25 on Saturday, fled the Pakistan team's hotel in Dubai on November 8 for the United Kingdom after saying he had received demands that he fix a one-day match against South Africa under the threat of death.

He arrived by plane in Islamabad on Monday and was escorted by security officials to Interior Minister Rehman Malik's office where he met the minister, who had guaranteed his safety.

"I am happy to return. There were solid reasons behind my going to London and I am sure everyone realised that no one can put his career at stake for nothing," Haider told reporters after the meeting.

With his younger daughter on his lap, Haider added: "I am happy the way I was given full security. I want to spend some time with my family and then meet PCB [Pakistan Cricket Board] chairman [Ijaz Butt] which I will share with you."

"Haider will be given full security as promised," Malik said. "He is a citizen of Pakistan so there is no restriction on his movement. He has told us some facts which at this point of time we cannot share with the media."

Wearing a casual shirt and jeans, Haider was earlier whisked away by security officials to avoid a scrum at the airport, where he also met his wife, daughters and brother, witnesses said.

## A pleasant surprise Rajshahi win

FROM PAGE 16

RAJSHAH: First innings 532dec. Result: Rajshahi won by an innings and 157 runs. BARISAL: First innings 257 and second innings 306-8dec in 109.3 overs (Faruque 112, Nayeem 46, Shaheen 67, Arifat 19; Kapali 2-120, Yasin 2-61). SYLHET: First innings 252 and second innings 211 for five in 82 overs (Imtiaz 29, Rajin 20, Kapali 92, Tasamul 39 not out; Arifat 2-29). Result: Match drawn.

tiebreaker in the final. People surrounding Farashganj SC at Lalkuti on Sunday night brought out a victory procession and the club premises have been decked up with decorative lights to celebrate the triumph.

The club will also host a reception and cultural show tomorrow and disburse the promised bonuses among the players. Club president Mizanur Rahman Khan Dipu declared a prize of Tk one lakh for every player.

## Dilshan to join SL early

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan, one of the stars of the Indian Premier League (IPL), has said he wants to leave the event early to travel with the national team to England on tour.

Dilshan is keen to join the Sri Lankan squad when they fly to England on May 10, which means he would have to abandon his Royal Challengers Bangalore IPL side three weeks before the tournament ends.

Sri Lanka are set to play three Tests, five one-dayers and a Twenty20 international during the tour.

"Dilshan is keen to travel with the team, to try and create a bond as some of the senior players will be joining the squad a bit late," Dilshan's manager Roshan Abeysinghe told AFP.

Sri Lanka Cricket last week allowed its IPL players to stay on in India until May 18, rowing back on a request for them to return by May 5 to prepare for the tour.

Dilshan took over as skipper last week after Kumar Sangakkara quit following Sri Lanka's defeat to India in the World Cup final in Mumbai earlier this month.

Dilshan has scored 105 runs from five games for Bangalore, who have won two of their six matches in the money-spinning Twenty20 tournament so far.

## Nadal means records

AFP, Barcelona

World number one Rafael Nadal created more history on Sunday when he became the only man to win two tournaments more than six times after defeating David Ferrer 6-2, 6-4 in the Barcelona Open final.

The Spanish top seed, with 34 consecutive victories on clay, repeated his victory a week ago when he beat Ferrer for a seventh Monte Carlo trophy.

Nadal improved to a phenomenal 31-2 in claycourt finals with his only two losses coming to Roger Federer at Hamburg in 2007 and Madrid two years ago.

"I feel at home here. It's a very special tournament," said the champion who celebrated with a traditional post-victory dip in the nearby club pool.

"It always has been as I grew up watching this tournament. It's a historical tournament with a great tradition and great champions. It's more than a dream to win here six times."

## DELHI CWG SCAM Kalmadi arrested

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA from New Delhi

Indian police on Monday arrested senior leader of India's ruling Congress party Suresh Kalmadi, who headed the organizing committee of the Delhi Commonwealth Games last year, for alleged corruption in the conduct of the sporting extravaganza.

Official sources said 67-year-old Kalmadi, a lawmaker from western Indian state of Maharashtra, was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which called him to its headquarters for questioning.

The Congress has suspended Mr Kalmadi from the membership of the party.

Kalmadi was arrested on the charge of conspiring to favour a private firm of Switzerland by awarding a contract at an inflated cost of Rs 141 crore, CBI said.

It charged that the contract was given by wrongfully restricting and eliminating from competition other suppliers in a premeditated manner.

CBI's action came following the visit to London by a two-member team of the investigation agency in connection with the baton relay event in the run up to the Games held in October 2010.

CBI claimed to have gathered fresh leads after the trip of its team to London in connection with cases related to alleged irregularities in hiring of two companies for the Queen's Baton Relay for providing services like taxis for the guests and organizing committee members and display monitors during the event.

The team has spoken to the London-based owner of both the companies -- Ashish Patel -- who has provided information and documents with regard to the allegedly overvalued deal, the sources said.

Kalmadi had earlier expressed his inability to appear before the CBI citing his foreign visit, saying he would return home only after April 19. But even after returning from his visit abroad, he did not turn up before the agency saying he was still not in Delhi.



SURESH KALMADI

## Warne leads from front

INTERNET, Jaipur

Rajasthan Royals skipper Shane Warne, who with his superb bowling guided his team to a comfortable eight-wicket victory against Kerala Kochi Tuskers, has applauded his players for giving a gutsy performance.

The Kochi Tuskers, led by Sri Lankan Mahela Jayawardene, failed to read 41 year old Warne's flight and spin and, with seamer Siddharth Trivedi also chipping in with three for 19, they were bundled out for a paltry 109.

Rahul Dravid (44) put on 71 runs for the opening wicket with Australian Shane Watson (49) before getting run out as Rajasthan leap-frogged from sixth to second spot with their third victory.

Warne took crucial wickets of Parthiv Patel and Ravindra Jadeja.

"So, we just went back to sort of basics and the dreary board and write out what's our strategy, what's our plans, how do we play our best cricket and we sort of stuck that. But, I think over all of that there is a spirit in the side, which I said early, it's just really good and you know we didn't get too disheartened."

"But, the losses really hurt, it really hurt the group and I thought the way we responded here today was pretty emphatic and I think it showed a lot of character," said Warne.

The Rajasthan Royals on the other hand came out to bat with Dravid and Shane Watson making a partnership of 71 runs.

Brendon McCullum of Kochi Tuskers missed the game due to shoulder injury and his substitute VVS Laxman got out cheaply.

"Initially we thought it was a 140-150 wicket, but once we started playing on that, we realized it's probably a 130 wicket and we assessed that situation in the dugout. I mean, the guys who went to bat knew what we were looking at."

SCORES IN BRIEF  
KOCHI TUSKERS KERALA: 109 in 20 overs (Patel 32, Jadeja 22; Warne 3-16, Trivedi 3-19)  
RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 111-2 in 14.1 overs (Watson 49, Dravid 44)  
Result: Rajasthan Royals won by eight wickets.  
Man-of-the-match: Shane Warne.

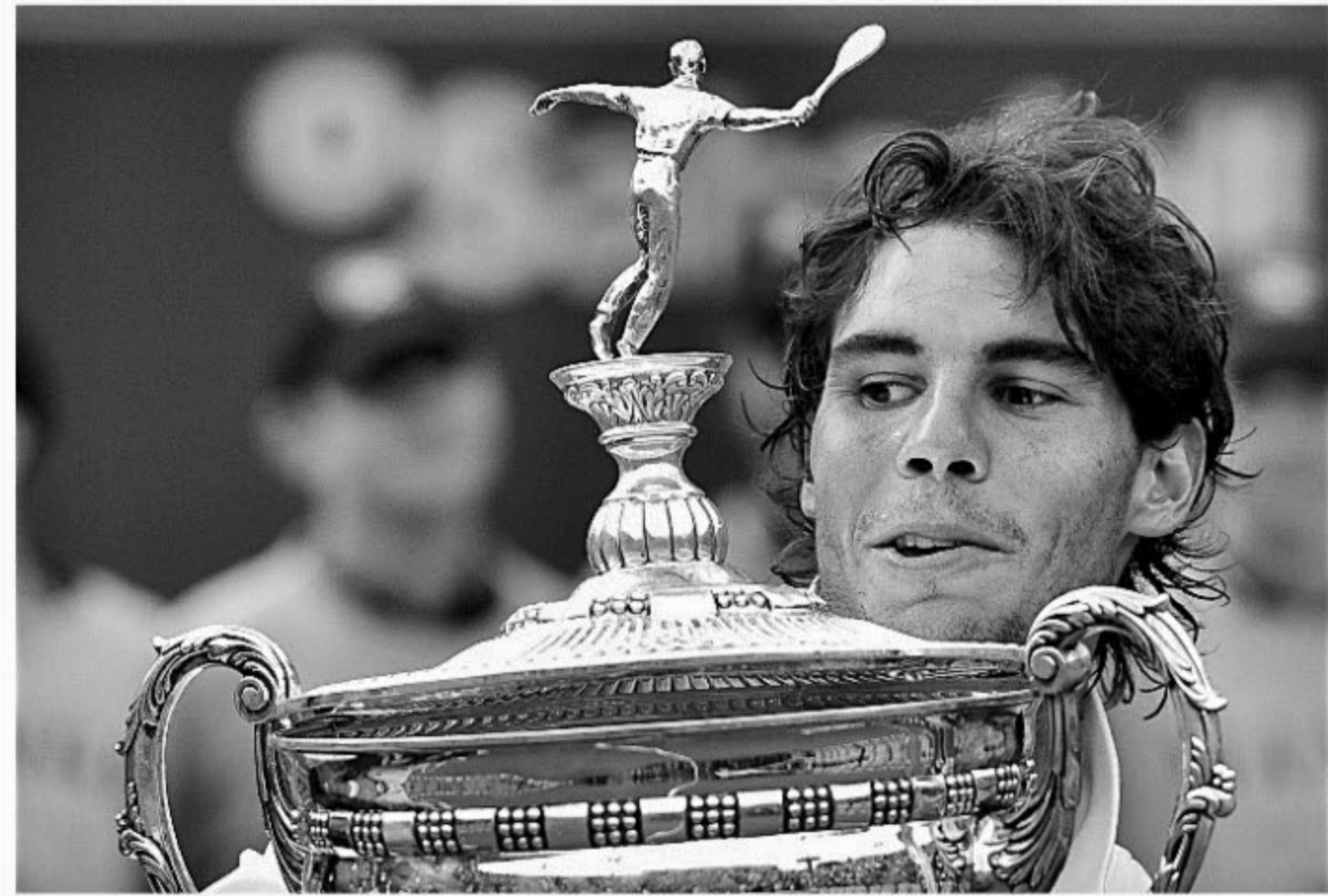


PHOTO: AFP  
World number one Spaniard Rafael Nadal holds the winner's trophy after beating compatriot David Ferrer in the Barcelona Open final on Sunday. Nadal won 6-2, 6-4.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Components of psyches

4 Dervish

9 Atl. counterpart

12 Meadow

13 Sierra

14 "Ben-"

15 Lustful

17 Historic period

18 Old Olds-mobile

19 Sacred beetle

21 Indiana basketball team

24 Coin of the Continent

25 Durham sch.

26 Boar's mate

28 Whom Bugs bogs

31 Goblet feature

33 Zodiac feline

35 Seep out

36 Calligraphy stroke

38 Plant sticker

40 Gun-lobby org.

41 Leave out

43 Needle partner

45 Jaunty

47 Luau bowlful

48 One's years

49 Greek historian

54 Poolroom stick

55 Obliterate

56 Raw rock

57 Affirmative

58 Fender benders

59 Stick with a kick

20 Singer Guthrie

21 Face, slangily

22 Initial chip

23 Tennessee-see

27 Tribes-people

27 Charlotte's creation

29 Pound of poetry

30 Scan

32 Actress Rogers

34 Overseas military base

37 Went after marlin

39 Colossus of

42 Yonder

44 Carnival city

45 Risque

46 Chills and fever

50 Skedad-dled

51 Youngster

52 Coffee vessel

53 Collection

Solution time: 24 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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N W T K P E T Q A J P C C J T F P C

E P A F T I T K A T P A F B C T - H M P A T .

Saturday's Cryptiquip: BIG MUSICAL GROUP THAT SPECIALIZED IN SONGS ABOUT SPANISH APPETIZERS: THE MAMAS AND THE TAPAS.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: Y equals I