



Maria Sharapova of Russia pumps her fist after winning a point against Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand during their second round match at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.

Sharapova gets going

AFP, Tokyo

Maria Sharapova shrugged off last year's disappointing first-round exit as she got off to a confident start in beating Tamarine Tanasugarn in the Pan Pacific Open on Monday in Tokyo.

The Russian world number two, who crashed to a surprise defeat to Japan's Kimiko Date-Krumm last year, was in full swing as she defeated the veteran Thai 6-1, 7-5 to stride into the third round after a first-round bye.

Sharapova took the first set easily and then jumped into a 3-0 lead in the second set.

But Tamarine fought back. She cashed in on a double break opportunity in the fourth and 10th games to even the score at 5-5 as the Russian suddenly began misfiring.

But Sharapova steadied herself to break back in the following game and then serving for the match for the second time made no mistake, finishing off with her seventh ace.

Earlier in the day, seventh seed Marion Bartoli of France defeated Japan's Ayumi Morita 6-3, 0-6, 6-3 to reach the third round.

In the first-round action, former world number one Ana Ivanovic of Serbia outclassed Anastasia Rodionova of Australia 6-4, 6-0, while Mandy Minella of Luxembourg downed Date-Krumm 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

WI turn it around

Cricket

AFP, London

Spinner Gary Mathurin enjoyed a memorable debut as he inspired the West Indies to a surprise 25-run win over England in the second Twenty20 international at The Oval on Sunday.

The 28-year-old left-arter from St Lucia took 3-9 in his four overs as England crumbled in pursuit of the West Indies' total of 113-5 and were bowled out for 88, their lowest total in a Twenty20 international.

On a turning pitch, Mathurin opened the attack and bowled Craig Kieswetter, Ravi Bopara and Jonny Bairstow in quick succession to give the tourists a stranglehold on the game.

"The English had not seen me before and I thought I could get the job done," said Mathurin.

"Everybody was together. We came out there with a point to prove."

England captain Graeme Swann said: "We put ourselves in a position where we should not have lost the game."

"To not chase 113 is unacceptable in international cricket. The West Indies played well but not well enough to bowl us out for 88. But you can't argue with a guy who gets 3-9."

Ben Stokes hit some big shots in

making 31 but was trapped in front by leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo and in a much-improved West Indies fielding performance Samit Patel was run out by a direct hit from Bishoo.

Joss Buttler and Scott Borthwick were both run out and with them went England's last hopes of a successful run chase and when Jade Dernbach was last man out he was the fourth run out victim of the innings.

This was England's first defeat in any form of the game since July 3, when they lost the third one-day international against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

The win was also sweet revenge for the West Indies who were crushed by 10 wickets in Friday's first game as the two-match series ended 1-1.

Samit Patel took 2-22 as the West Indies were kept to 113, a total that did look big enough until their spinners came into action.

After their defeat on Friday the tourists were hoping to post a bigger total but their depleted batting line-up was kept in check by England's slower bowlers who were shrewdly rotated by Swann.

The West Indies, who were put in by England, struggled to get the bowling away and Marlon Samuels was the only batsman to make more than 30, hitting 35 not out.

The tourists struggled to get the

English bowling away and by the end of the 14th over they had just 62 on the board and at one point went 43 balls without hitting a boundary.

Chris Barnwell tried to accelerate but when he attempted to hit Patel over the top he fell to a stunning catch by Alex Hales.

Patel opened the bowling and had Miles Bascombe plumb leg before whilst Johnson Charles and Dwayne Smith got themselves in but failed to go on and convert their starts into significant scores.

Smith was caught in front by Dernbach and Charles was bowled by a googly from young leg spinner Borthwick.

Borthwick then pulled off a smart catch in the deep off Ravi Bopara to get rid of skipper Darren Sammy as he was trying to increase the run rate.

Samuels and Andre Russell managed a few big blows in the last two overs which were to prove significant in the end with Friday's bowling hero Bopara going for 36 in his four overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: 113 for 5 (Charles 21, Samuels 35 not out, Sammy 12, Russell 12 not out; Patel 2-22)

ENGLAND: 88 (Kieswetter 10, Stokes 31, Buttler 13, Borthwick 14; Mathurin 3-9)

Result: West Indies won by 25 runs.

Learn the lesson: Swann

Cricket

AFP, London

England stand-in Twenty20 captain Graeme Swann has warned his side they must learn the lessons of Sunday's defeat by the West Indies or they will struggle to defend their World Twenty20 crown.

On a turning pitch at the Oval England, chasing 113, were bowled out for just 88, their lowest total in T20 games, and went down by 25 runs with rookie spinner Gary Mathurin taking 3-9.

Swann anticipates England playing on similar pitches in the upcoming one-day series in India and in next year's World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka and insists England will have to draw on Sunday's experience in the subcontinent.

"Over the next 12 months we are going to play on pitches like that and we are going to face spin in the first six overs," said Swann.

"It's completely unacceptable [to be unable to chase down 113] and won't be allowed to happen again. You can look at that crowd and give it a silver lining if you like."

"Everyone will be honest in this team. They will hold their hands up and look at their dismissals and say 'I did something

wrong there that I shouldn't have done'. If you don't have someone putting their hand up and winning the game, if all 11 of you don't bother putting your hand up then it's going to be very difficult.

"It's just a case of knowing what we have done wrong and making sure it never happens again. I don't think I ever want to play in an England team that can't chase 113 against any opposition.

"West Indies bowled and fielded well, but there shouldn't really be any team in world cricket who can keep a team down to 113, in my opinion.

"It's a harsh environment in international cricket and you find out a few things about people when they are under the pump.

"Today, one or two guys didn't respond that well, but I'm sure, knowing this team as I do and the way they have trained, it's a mere blip. I wouldn't write off any of this XI who have played tonight, or indeed any of the 14 in the squad, because they are all superb cricketers."

One of the few players to emerge with credit was the leg-spinner Scott Borthwick who took his first wicket on his debut and was batting well before being run out.

The series ended 1-1 after England had cruised to a 10-wicket win on Friday at the same venue.

Army regain kabaddi crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Army regained the crown of Kabaddi when they deposed current champions Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in the title deciding match of the Runner Group 13th Premier Division Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Army beat BGB by 13-10 points in the title-deciding match of the super league stage, exacting revenge over the 11-time champions for their defeat last year.

Bangladesh Army, which finished runners-up on four occasions, clinched the top slot for the first time securing five points while BGB became runners-up following the day's debacle.

Earlier, Bangladesh Army defeated Bangladesh Navy by 35-13 points after sharing points with Bangladesh Police 18-18 in the super league encounters.

Ilievski

FROM PAGE 16 who were given a schedule of individual training after the FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Lebanon but the national booters allegedly did not follow his instruction.

"I have information that the players did not follow my instructions and it was proved today as they looked exhausted after 15 minutes of play."

Ilievski said he would gather more information about the players and check them before the SAFF Championship.

"We have been training individually but there may be lack of seriousness," confessed national midfielder Mamunul Islam adding that there is a gulf of difference between training at the club level and at individual level.

The Macedonian coach however praised some youngsters like U-21 goalkeeper Shahidul Alam Sohel, winger Sohel Rana, striker Sohel and hinted that they have a good chance of making it to the national fold.

Women's

FROM PAGE 16 Noagoan and Kurigram. Group F: Rajshahi, Jhalakathi, Magura and Lalmonirhat. Group G: Dinajpur, Chuadanga, Bagerhat and Rangpur. Group H: Panchagarh, Narail and Kushtia.

Somerset beat KKR again

Cricket

AFP, Hyderabad

Roelof van der Merwe's sensational 73 off 40 balls helped Somerset pull-off a nine-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in a Group B fixture of the Champions League T20 here Sunday.

The Knight Riders posted a healthy 161 for three on a slow surface after captain Gautam Gambhir, returning to the side after recovering from concussion, chose to bat on a slow surface at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

Somerset, who were cruising at 107 for 1 in the first 10 overs, made things tougher by losing three wickets in quick succession before reaching home in the final over. Peter Trego (28) and Nick compton (19 not out) were the other

crucial contributions in the final score of 164 for five.

The win was Somerset's second one over the Knight Riders in the tournament after they beat the Indian Premier League franchise in the qualifying stage.

Van der Merwe played a gem of an innings, hitting nine fours and two sixes to lay the foundation of a difficult run chase. The South Africa played a variety of strokes but guiding a Kallis half-tracker to the fine leg boundary was easily his stand-out shot.

Van der Merwe and Trego's wicket in 14th over allowed the Knight Riders to get back in the match but Compton and Arul Suppiah (15) coped up with the pressure towards the end.

Earlier, Jacques Kallis (74 not out) and Yusuf Pathan (39 not out) enter-

tained the crowd with some brutal hitting all around the park.

The explosive duo shared 90-run stand off just 47 balls following an ordinary start by the Knight Riders.

Gamhir's (0) comeback innings lasted a ball. The southpaw miscued a Lewis Gregory delivery while trying to play it on the side and ended up spooning a catch to Alfonso Thomas at mid-off.

The highlight of the innings was Pathan hitting four mammoth six off spinner Suppiah in the 15th over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 161 for 3 (Kallis 74 not out, Yusuf 39 not out; Gregory 2-9)

SOMERSET: 164 for 5 (Van der Merwe 73, Trego 28)

Result: Somerset won by five wickets.

It's Cavendish after Simpson

Cycling

AFP, Copenhagen

Mark Cavendish became Britain's first world road race champion since the late Tom Simpson in 1965 when he dominated a bunch sprint to win the men's elite race at the road world championships here Sunday.

Australian Matthew Goss finished second to take the

silver with German Andre Greipel winning the bronze after 260 km of racing.

"We knew it was the best chance we had since San Sebastian in 1965 to bring the rainbow jersey back to Britain," said Cavendish.

"And with the best eight riders in the race, we achieved that. It's incredible. It's the work of Great Britain, and I'm bringing it [jersey] back."

On a mainly flat 14 km circuit that was not conducive to attacking, the first salvos came early, an eight-man breakaway forming and going on to build a maximum lead of nearly 10 minutes on the main bunch.

They were reeled in well before the finish and, in the final laps, a flurry of attacks was soon brought to heel by a miserly and determined peloton which hit a near record average speed of 45.82 km/h for the race.

Britain, helped by Germany, had taken a firm grip early on to boost their chances of a bunch sprint for Cavendish and their work paid off handsomely.

After putting the Isle of Man sprinter in prime position on the 500-metre uphill finish, he found a gap inside

the final 200 and powered up the inside of the barriers to beat Goss by half a wheel.

"When I kick I know whether I'm going to win or not," added Cavendish.

Goss, who like Cavendish had to tweak his preparations after dropping out of the Tour of Spain with a virus, said his race could not have worked out better -- except for one major detail.

"I don't like being the bridesmaid! I would much rather be wearing that jersey there," said the Australian, pointing at the rainbow stripes being worn by Cavendish, his teammate at HTC-Highroad.

Goss, however, was quick to pay tribute to both Britain and Australia.

Reigning world champion Thor Hushovd of Norway was one of several top names who got stuck behind following a crash on the sixth lap. With the pace up front unrelenting, his group never recovered their deficit.

Before then, world number one Philippe Gilbert, who is not considered a true sprinter like Cavendish and Goss, had tried to toughen the race for the sprinters by Belgian teammates on the attack.



Premier Division Kabaddi League champions Bangladesh Army pose for a celebratory photo after beating Border Guard Bangladesh at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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12 One side of the Urals
13 Jamboree structure
14 "Go, team!"
15 Stagger
16 St. Louis landmark
17 Carte lead-in
18 Large barrel
19 Cattle call?
20 Hide
21 Reuben holder
23 Man-mouse link
25 Easy mark
28 Took it easy
32 Mountain nymph
33 Pale blue shade
34 Used a hoe

36 Avuncular Addams
37 English cathedral city
38 Baton Rouge sch.
39 Locks
42 Aye opposer
44 Egg container
48 Moreover
49 Bleacher-ites'
50 Swindle
51 Shad product
52 Eastern potentate
53 Vicinity
54 "CSI" evidence

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2 Addict
3 Stead
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5 Pollen-making organ
6 Long sandwich
7 Square
8 To the — degree
9 Highland hillside
10 Event for Cinderella
11 Conversation
20 A week before Easter
22 Mountain air?
24 Kentucky Derby award
25 "Wham!"
26 Anger
27 "Golly!"
29 Gob
30 Supplement, with "out"
31 Aachen article
35 Very energetic one
36 Handbills
39 Difficult
40 Unsigned (Abbr.)
41 Concept
43 Hertz rival
45 Modern-day money
46 Gush forth
47 Bluish-green color
49 Symbol of intrigue

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CRYPTOQUIP

CB DGQ'HX UL LYX RNUDJHGQOF,
DGQ'NN RHGTUTND GTIXHAX
KUOD WYCNFHXXO KGACQJ
BHGK INCFX LG INCFX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THAT SCANDINAVIAN PLUNDERER RIDES MANY MOTORCYCLES, I SUPPOSE HE'S A BIKING VIKING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals Y