



PHOTO: AFP
Rafael Nadal (C) and his Spain teammates celebrate with the Davis Cup after beating Argentina at La Cartuja Olympic Stadium in Sevilla on Sunday.

Spain's 5th Davis Cup

Tennis
AFP, Sevilla

Rafael Nadal battled back from a set down to defeat brave Argentine Juan Martin del Potro and hand Spain a fifth Davis Cup title on Sunday.

In the same Olympic stadium where the world number two became the youngest Davis Cup winner in 2004, Nadal saw off Del Potro 1-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7/0) in a little over four hours to give the hosts an unassailable 3-1 lead.

"It was a very emotional match and I am happy for the team," said Nadal, who has now won 20 of his 21 singles rubbers for Spain, but had never before claimed the winning point.

His only loss came to Czech Jiri Novak on his debut -- as a 17-year-old - in February 2004.

"It was the most amazing atmosphere I have ever played in. The crowd were crazy. Everything was perfect," added the French Open champion of the electric atmosphere generated by 25,000 fans.

"It was complicated at the start of the

match, but the beginning of the second set was very important and at 1-0 and 40-0 that was the turning point for me.

"Delpo was playing amazingly today, especially the flat shots, it was really hard"

Sunday's win followed titles for Spain in 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2009, meaning all of their wins have come in the space of 11 years.

"It was an unbelievable match. These guys are great and that's why we were in the final," said Spanish captain Albert Costa.

"Rafa tried to play deeper and harder because at the start Del Potro was inside the line and hitting so hard. He fought hard so that's why we won."

Nadal and David Ferrer had won Friday's opening singles before David Nalbandian and Eduardo Schwank kept Argentina's hopes alive by beating Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco in Saturday's doubles.

It was more heartbreak for Argentina who became the first nation to lose four finals -- they also lost to Spain in the final three years ago at home.

"Spain, playing on clay, as a home team -- this is one of the best teams in

history," admitted Argentina captain Tito Vazquez.

Del Potro, who lost a marathon five setter to Ferrer on Friday, had gotten off to a strong start leading 6-1, 1-0 and 40-0 on his service against Nadal.

But Nadal hung on to get back into the match as Del Potro began to show signs of the fatigue from Friday's five-hour marathon playing with both of his thighs bandaged.

Despite looking dead and buried after losing his serve early in the fourth set, Del Potro managed to claw his way back into the tie with some magical shots which saw him serve for the set at 5-3.

Nadal dug deep however and the momentum swung his way again and once into the tie-break there was no looking back as he sealed victory with a winning forehand.

The victory capped the season for Nadal after a difficult six months since winning Roland Garros in June.

Spain still has some way to go to match the leading winners in Davis Cup history. The United States lead the way with 32 wins with Australia in second place with 28.

Sammy

FROM PAGE 16
before both fell in the space of four runs.

Pollard fell to a superb catch by Ravindra Jadeja, who ran in from long-off to hold the ball at deep extra cover.

SCOREBOARD
WEST INDIES
Simmons c Patel b Kumar 1
Hyatt c Patel b Mithun 20
Samuels b Ashwin 58
Bravo ret'd hurt 26
Ramdin c Patel b Yadav 38
Pollard c Jadeja b Kumar 29
Russell not out 40
Sammy not out 41
Extras: (b-2, w-5) 7
Total: (For five wickets in 50 overs) 260
Did not bat: Roach, Rampaul, Narine.
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-42, 3-122, 4-177, 5-181.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kumar	8	1	39	2
Yadav	9	1	75	1
Mithun	7	0	47	1
Jadeja	10	1	37	0
Ashwin	10	0	33	1
Raina	6	0	27	0

INDIA
Patel b Samuels 39
Sehwag c Ramdin b Rampaul 0
Gambhir lbw b Rampaul 0
Kohli lbw b Narine 20
Sharma run out (Sammy) 95
Raina c Ramdin b Rampaul 2
Jadeja run out 11
Ashwin lbw b Narine 31
Vinay b Roach 3
Mithun lbw b Rampaul 23
Yadav not out 11
Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-3, nb-3) 9
Total: (All out in 46.5 overs) 244
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-8, 3-43, 4-79, 5-84, 6-105, 7-196, 8-200, 9-216, 10-244.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Roach	10	0	54	1
Rampaul	8.5	1	57	4
Narine	10	0	34	2
Samuels	10	0	50	1
Russell	4	0	25	0
Sammy	1	0	7	0
Simmons	2	0	10	0
Pollard	1	0	4	0

Result: West Indies won by 16 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Ravi Rampaul.

Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 16
Mohammed Zain put Sri Lanka ahead in the 16th minute but the lead lasted only five minutes as Sanjar Ahmadi levelled the margin for Afghanistan in the 21st minute and then made it 2-1 in the 25th minute. Mohammed Yamir Ali sealed the 3-1 victory in the dying minutes of the game.

Hussey bucks Hughes up

Cricket
AFP, Brisbane

Senior batsman Mike Hussey on Monday urged besieged opener Phillip Hughes to back his natural game after being retained in Australia's Test squad.

Despite failing with just 10 and seven runs in the first Gabba Test, Hughes looks set to get another chance in the second Test against New Zealand, starting on Friday in Hobart.

Australia's selection panel on Monday made just one injury-enforced change to their 12-man squad from the first Test with the inclusion of Dan Christian.

Christian replaces 12th man Ben Cutting (side strain) which means a batsman would make way if the South Australian all-rounder was chosen to make his Test debut.

Hughes has passed 36 just twice in his past 17 Test innings and with all-rounder Shane Watson (hamstring) and Shaun Marsh (back) on track to return from injuries in the Boxing Day Test against India, the opener's Test position appears vulnerable.

His six-ball failure on Sunday as Australia romped to a nine-wicket win, highlighted the New South Wales left-hander's technical

weakness as his average has dived from 69 after three Tests in 2009 to 36.

Hughes was dropped fifth ball at second slip off Chris Martin before cutting the next ball to gully where he was caught by Martin Gupthill.

But Hussey said he doesn't believe the 23-year-old opener should be singled out for continuing an unhappy knack of falling to catches behind the wicket.

"I just think it's important for him to keep a real clear mind and to keep playing his way," Hussey told reporters.

"He's had success playing his way. He's still put together some really good scores for us in difficult conditions in Sri Lanka (126) and South Africa (88). While Watson and Marsh have been given extra time to recover, Australia are also keeping teenage pace sensation Patrick Cummins (heel) in cotton wool ahead of the four-Test India series.

Cummins, man of the match on his debut against South Africa in Johannesburg last month, is one of five pacemen sidelined along with Ryan Harris (hip), Mitchell Johnson (foot surgery), Doug Bollinger (hamstring) and Cutting.

In their absence, James Pattinson gave a man-of-the-match performance at the Gabba, taking 5-27 to rout the Black Caps for 150 in their second innings.

Bangladesh need

FROM PAGE 16
With that end in view, Ilieski is set to start with Mithun Chowdhury upfront leaving fellow striker Zahid Hasan Emily on the bench. Defender Mohammad Sujan is also set to be back in the starting eleven while Atiqur Rahman Meshu will go back on the bench.

According to the coach's plan, Sujan, Mamun Mia, Rezaul Karim and Ariful Islam will defend the backline while Pranotosh Kumar, Imon Babu and Nasirul Islam will build up the game from midfield. Mithun will play upfront, while Abdul Baten Komol and Alamgir Rana will attack from the wings.

Ilieski has also chalked out a plan to stop Maldives attack's spearhead Ali Ashfaq and the Macedonian hinted that he might designate a player to mark Ashfaq closely throughout the game.

Havelange quits IOC?

AFP, London
Former FIFA president Joao Havelange resigned from the International Olympic Committee on Sunday, just days before he was to face an ethics inquiry, it was reported by the BBC.

The 95-year-old, who has been a member of the IOC since 1963, was under investigation for his links with FIFA's former marketing agency, International Sport and Leisure (ISL), which went bankrupt in 2001 with debts of around 300 million dollars.

A BBC Panorama television investigation alleged in 2010 that the Brazilian had accepted payments from ISL for granting lucrative World Cup contracts.

Havelange was FIFA president between 1974-98 before he was replaced by Sepp Blatter.

Australia include Christian

AFP, Brisbane

Daniel Christian was added Monday to the Australian squad for this week's second and final Test against New Zealand in Hobart as the home side look to wrap up a series win.

The South Australian all-rounder, yet to make his Test debut, was included following a side strain injury to paceman Ben Cutting while injured Shane Watson, Pat Cummins, Ryan Harris and Shaun Marsh were not considered.

Australia go into the match starting on Friday leading the series 1-0 after Sunday's emphatic nine-wicket victory over the Black Caps in the Gabba Test inside four days.

SQUAD

Michael Clarke (captain), David Warner, Phillip Hughes, Usman Khawaja, Ricky Ponting, Michael Hussey, Brad Haddin, Peter Siddle, James Pattinson, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Dan Christian.

Players grimly

FROM PAGE 16
against Nepal, I believe Bangladesh will win the game," said Sohel, who initially looked very dejected about his mistake.

Striker Mithun Chowdhury also believes that not all is lost yet.

"We all just need the will power we showed against Lebanon and everyone has to believe that we can perform better than we have so far," said Mithun who has played the first two matches as substitute is all set to play the game from the beginning.

"If we think alike and play together, than our dream can come true by winning the game," he said.

Some life

FROM PAGE 16
matches so we are just focusing on that. Everybody is ready for the next game and we want to win every game and I think it's our main goal and all are looking forward to the coming matches," said the successful Pakistan skipper when asked about how he will motivate his side for the dead rubber.

The Pakistan captain was also not ready to focus on Bangladesh's track record at this ground where they are going to play their first match.

Misbah also explained the reasons behind his side's recent discipline performance in the all forms of the game.

"We are working on it for the last one and a half years. The management, the coaches, the supporting staff and the players are working very hard. Some of the youngsters came into the side and have worked hard to make their spot worthy. All of us have set a goal that we will now need to raise the bar which is being understood by every member of the side," he said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 007

5 Swelled head

8 Acknowledge

12 Reed instrument

13 Cattle call

14 Options list

15 Bean spiller?

17 Curved lines

18 Left the chair

19 Nickelodeon

21 Afternoon affairs

24 Lennon's lady

25 Use a paper towel

28 Scorch

30 Can. neighbor

33 The whole thing

34 Aquatic flora

35 Kennedy or Koppel

36 Crafty

37 Greenish blue

38 At the home of (Fr.)

39 It's the word

41 Lemon coating

43 Oklahoman

46 Passion

50 Piece of work

51 Cape Cod city

54 Greek cheese

55 Lamb's dam

56 Apportion (out)

57 In need of liniment

58 Gender

59 Old portico

DOWN

1 Goes up and down

2 Death notice

3 NASA scrub

4 Lower in rank

5 Ostrich's cousin

6 Obtained

7 Ahs' mates

8 Forcefully

9 Martini ingredient

10 Erstwhile

11 Wimpy sort

16 Rhyming tribute

20 Un-matched

22 With skill

23 "— and spice and ..."

25 Existed

26 Under the weather

27 Old Chrysler

29 Hindu princess

31 Witness

32 Wood-shaping tool

34 Pinnacle

38 Data holders

40 Recant

42 "Platoon" setting

43 Couch

44 Oil cartel

45 Deli loaves

47 Song for two

48 "Beetle Bailey" dog

49 Perlman of "Cheers"

52 Great wonder

53 Actor Harrison

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Mayhem in Bogra

SPORTS REPORTER



There was havoc in Bogra where 20 wickets fell on the first day of the National Cricket League's seventh round Chittagong-Rangpur game, including a hatrick by leg-spinner Noor Hossain.

In the battle of the table-toppers, Mohammad Mithun's century for Khulna wasn't enough as his side were bowled out for a sub-300 score by disciplined Dhaka Metropolis bowling.

Elsewhere, Rajshahi put Barisal in trouble despite a modest first innings while Sylhet dominated a hapless Dhaka.

RANGPUR-CHITTAGONG

At the Shahid Chandu Stadium, on a wicket that offered some turn, the batsmen simply fell in a heap. Rangpur's first innings was recovering from the early wickets when skipper Tariq Ahmed was run out in the 31st over. Within the next 30 minutes, Noor ran through the lower-order including a hatrick in the 40th over when he removed Ariful Haque (bowled), Abdur Rahman Rony (leg-before) and Shuvashish Roy (bowled) off the first three balls.

The Rangpur seamers however had a lot to say about the proceedings. Shuvashish (two), Alauddin Babu (four) and Sajidul Islam (three) ran off with nine of the ten wickets to fall in just 34 overs. Chittagong trailed by four runs in the first innings which extended to ten after Rangpur began their second innings.

KHULNA-DHAKA METRO

Arafat Sunny took seven wickets for just 49 runs in his 25.3 overs as Khulna were bowled out for 256 runs at the Shahid Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi. Mithun stood firm, hammering 13 boundaries and 4 sixes in his 135-ball knock of 101 runs.

It was Sunny's fourth five-for in the competition, taking him to the top of the wicket-

takers list with 38 scalps (level with Enamul Haque Jr).

Dhaka Metro replied with 46 for one in 12 overs with skipper Mohammad Ashraful scoring an unbeaten 30.

RAJSHAHI-BARISAL
Sohag Gazi took five wickets as Rajshahi were bowled out for 222 in 64.1 overs at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore. Only Junaed Siddiqui struck a half-century while Jubair Ahmed scored 47.

Barisal however negated their impressive bowling performance with a poor batting show. They lost five quick wickets and were 74 for five at stumps with Mukhtar Ali taking two wickets.

DHAKA-SYLHET
Dhaka suffered yet another top-order malfunction; both their openers fell for ducks while the middle-order again suffered badly at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

The lower-order batsmen took over, chiefly Nurul Hossain who scored 36 as Sylhet dominated proceedings.

Robiul Islam took four wickets while Tapash Baisya picked up three.

Sylhet were 71 for two with Shaker Ahmed and Rajin Saleh at the crease.

BRIEF SCORES

RANGPUR: First innings 122 all out in 39.3 overs (Tariq 31; Noor 5-40) and second innings 6-0.
CHITTAGONG: First innings 118 all out in 34 overs (Iqbal 30; Alauddin 4-49).
KHULNA: First innings 256 all out in 75.3 overs (Mithun 101, Soumya 59; Sunny 7-49).
DHAKA METRO: First innings 46-1 in 12 overs (Ashraful 30 not out; Al-Amin 1-1).
RAJSHAHI: First innings 222 all out in 64.1 overs (Junaed 52, Jubair 47; Sohag 5-75).
BARISAL: First innings 74-5 in 22.1 overs (Javed 20 not out; Mukhtar 3-29).
DHAKA: First innings 175 all out in 62.3 overs (Nurul 36; Robiul 4-39).
SYLHET: First innings 71-2 in 25 overs (Imtiaz 18; Mosharraf 1-18).

LOCAL

snippets

Ansar in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Bangladesh Ansar & VDP reached final of the KFC Women's Super League 2011 beating Jessore 4-1 in the second semifinal at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

National team's striker Aumra Ching Marma put Ansar ahead in the 18th minute before Rawshan Ara Akter doubled the lead in the 41st minute.

Baily Khatoun put one back for Jessore in the 46th minute but Tithi Rani Sarkar restored the lead 11 minutes later. Aumra Ching sealed the victory with her second in the 67th minute from a spot-kick.

Ansar will play against Bangladesh Sathkira in the final tomorrow at the same venue.

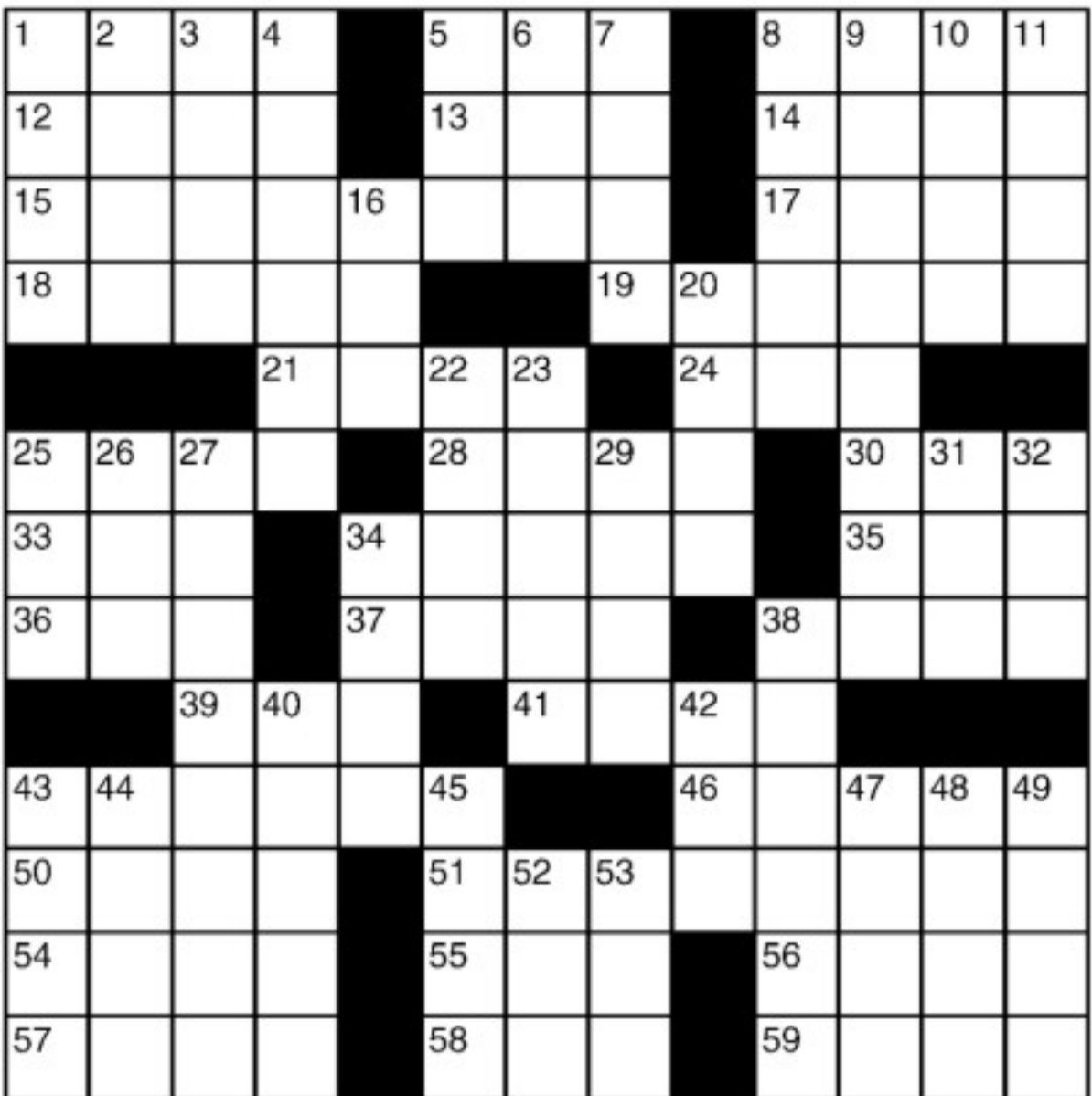
Korea Cup taekwondo

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Ansar & VDP emerged champions in the men's and women's senior group respectively in the Korea Cup Taekwondo Competition yesterday at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

Border Guard Bangladesh and Bangladesh Ansar & VDP became joint runnersup in men's senior group while Bangladesh Police and Rajshahi City Corporation became joint runnersup in the women's senior group.

BJMC rule in cycling

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) grabbed all four gold on the opening day of the National Cycling Competition at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. BJMCS Mohammad Tarikul Islam won gold in men's 400km mass start, Sonia Ovi won gold in women's 200km mass start, Mizanur Rahman won gold in men's 12,000m point race and Farhana Sultana won gold in women's 4000m points race.



CRYPTOQUIP
WSNMFY MKE RVMMTXV OZM
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GKSL S GMGFKSV DSNX MW
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Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU BECOME A CELEBRITY OVERNIGHT, I SUPPOSE PEOPLE MIGHT SAY YOU'VE BURST INTO FAME.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals O