

# Azarenka, Stosur in Qatar Open final

## Tennis

AFP, Doha

World number one Victoria Azarenka overcame a second set injury scare to thrash Agnieszka Radwanska 6-2, 6-4 and sweep into the final of the WTA Qatar Open on Saturday.

The top seed from Belarus will meet Australia's US Open champion Samantha Stosur in Sunday's final after Marion Bartoli of France retired early in the second set of their semifinal with cramps.

Azarenka won despite having court side treatment on her left foot immediately after Radwanska broke back in the second game of the second set.

The world number one was in apparent pain as she had her foot strapped, and for a few minutes it looked like she too would call it quits like Bartoli did an hour earlier.

But after a near eight-minute delay Azarenka came back with renewed determination that left Radwanska completely at her mercy.

Azarenka said the adrenaline kept her going.

"When you are in the match, the adrenaline is going and you try not to think about it and just try to give your best, whatever it is," she said.

"Sometimes the pain eases out, especially when you're winning and you are in that mode that you kinda try to forget about the pain. It doesn't happen always.

"But I was just trying to have a clear mind and just fight through, whatever happened happened."

After the scores were tied at 2-2, Azarenka won three games in a row to lead 5-2 and although Radwanska herself had a break and

retained her serve to close in at 4-5, the Australian Open champion was not letting the opportunity slip by, winning the 10th game 40-0 with a forehand down the line to reach her third final of the season.

"Honestly, I don't know how I managed to pull it off," she said.

"I had to concentrate very hard on every point, but I am happy that I made it," added Azarenka, who took her winning streak this year to 16 to equal the now retired Justine Henin's record set in 2004.

Earlier Bartoli decided to call off her bid for a first title in Doha after losing the first set 6-3 to Stosur.

"It started yesterday during the match against Lucie [Safarova]," Bartoli said.

"In the third set I really felt like my right calf was starting to cramp, and I really had to make sure I finished that third set very quickly.

"I had a lot of treatment yesterday after the match. Today when I started to warm up, I still felt it. So I knew I was not 100% going to the match."

Stosur has now reached her first final since capturing the US Open last September. "This week I've tried to stay relaxed and be a lot more loose. When I'm able to be like that, my tennis flows," she said.

"Then when I want to hit a forehand, I can get out there and whack it. My feet move better and everything about my tennis is just better. No doubt the mental side plays a huge part in your results."

Stosur guaranteed herself of becoming the first Australian woman to cross \$10 million in career prize money earnings by reaching the semi-finals.

But she has her work cut out for her on Sunday -- Azarenka has won all five of their previous meetings with Stosur in straight sets.

## SLOW OVER RATE MS suspended once again

AFP, Brisbane

India captain MS Dhoni was suspended for one match Sunday after his side's over rate was ruled to be too slow in their tri-series one-day international against Australia in Brisbane.

The Indians were two overs short of their target on Sunday, their second such offence within a year.

"As this was India's second minor over-rate offence after it was fined for a slow over-rate in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 final against Sri Lanka in Mumbai on 2 April, Dhoni has also been suspended from India's next game on Tuesday against Sri Lanka in Brisbane," the ICC said in a statement.

The slow over rate charge was laid by on-field umpires Steve Davis and Billy Bowden, as well as third umpire Bruce Oxenford and fourth umpire Paul Reiffel.

"Dhoni pleaded guilty to the charge and the subsequent penalties were accepted both by Dhoni and India," the ICC added.

Match referee Andy Pycroft also fined Dhoni 40 per cent of his match fee while each of the Indian players received 20 per cent fines.

## Cricket

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So I bought the flags of the two teams," said Shanjida Rahman, a third year physics student of Chittagong University who has come to enjoy the matches of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) at Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in the port city.

"In this city students like us have very few opportunities to enjoy our leisure time, but the [BPL T20] tournament has brought an opportunity for us and we all have come here to enjoy the event," she added.

Chanting slogans of both Dhaka Gladiators and Khulna Royal Bengals, Nishu, Moinak, Sabrina, Romel, all friends of Shanjida, were entering the stadium.

Echoing the same, Moinak, a student of BBA of Premier University in the city, told though they were all from Chittagong and supporters of Chittagong Kings but as cricket fans they would like to enjoy the performances of world famous players like Chanderpaul, Jayasuriya, Shakib Al Hasan and Mashrafe.

"Brother, you may not know what a great feeling it is to dance to the beats of drums and rhythm of music after a boundary, over boundary or a good innings from a player," said Romel adding, "I really enjoy it, no matter which the team or who the player is."

"Friend, now I think you have understood why we have bought the flags and jerseys," Shanjida asked.

## C'paul sinks

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were 15 runs short," said Mashrafe.

When asked whether his performance in the BPL improved his chances of making the Asia Cup squad next month, the pace spearhead said that while he was happy with his bowling it would be unwise to judge any player on the basis of performances in T20 matches.

He placed greater importance on his performances in the Dhaka Premier League prior to the BPL, and preferred to let the national selectors decide on his Asia Cup place.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**DHAKA:** 140-8 in 20 overs (Ashraf 53, Mahmood 33, Pollard 10, Anamul 15; Jayasuriya 2-25)

**KHULNA:** 141-3 in 16.4 overs (Chanderpaul 87 not out, Jayasuriya 10, Shakib 39; Mahmood 1-12, Mosharraf 1-19, Mashrafe 1-22)

**Result:** Khulna Royal Bengals won by seven wickets.

## Siddikur

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day's work.

Siddikur finished seven strokes behind eventual winner Jbe Kruger of South Africa, the man he beat in a play-off to win the 2010 Brunei Open. Siddikur's only Asian Tour win to this date.



PHOTO: AFP

England opener Kevin Pietersen celebrates an emphatic century in the third ODI against Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Friday.

# KP, Cook bring series

## Cricket

AFP, Dubai

Kevin Pietersen hit his eighth one-day hundred while Alastair Cook missed a third consecutive century as England crushed Pakistan by nine wickets in the third day-night match on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Pietersen notched an unbeaten 98-ball 111 while opening partner Cook hit 80 to help their team overhaul a modest 223-run target set by Pakistan with 12.4 overs to spare at Dubai Stadium.

The victory gave England an unassailable 3-0 win in the series, with the fourth and final match to come here on Tuesday.

Pietersen, whose last hundred came against India at Cuttack in November 2008, hit his 10th boundary to bring up the win.

Pietersen, who also hit two sixes, crossed the 4,000 one-day run mark when he reached 57, becoming the seventh England batsman to reach the milestone.

He pushed paceman Aizaz Cheema towards square-leg for two to reach his hundred off 93 balls, his first in 36 innings.

Cook, who hit a career-best 137 and then 102 in the first two matches, was shaping well for his third century but fell when he was caught behind off spinner Saeed Ajmal after a fluent 98-ball knock, hitting six boundaries and a six.

Pakistan's bowlers looked helpless against some impressive batting by Cook and Pietersen who improved on the previous best opening stand of 147 against Pakistan, set by Michael Atherton and Robin Smith in Karachi in the 1996 World Cup.

Cook fell with 53 still needed before Eoin Morgan (24 not out) helped Pietersen see off the target. Cook said keeping Pakistan to 222 was fantastic. Earlier, Shahid Afridi hit a 55-ball 51 while Umar Akmal scored a 92-ball 50 during their 79-run sixth wicket stand which lifted Pakistan from a precarious 97-5 after Misbah won the toss and chose to bat.

Pakistan lost Azhar Ali (five), Mohammad Hafeez (29) and Misbah (one) in the space of just two runs.

Two of these wickets went to paceman Stuart Broad, who finished with 3-42, while the impressive Steven

Finn added Hafeez to his early breakthrough of Imran Farhat (nine) in this pace-dominated period.

## SCOREBOARD

**PAKISTAN**  
Hafeez lbw b Finn 29  
Farhat c Kieswetter b Finn 9  
Azhar c Kieswetter b Broad 18  
Shafiq run out 5  
Misbah c Swann b Broad 50  
Akmal c Patel b Broad 51  
Afridi b Anderson 50  
Akmal b Finn 9  
Gul not out 27  
Ajmal b Anderson 4  
Cheema run out 5  
Extras: (lb-11, nb-1, w-2) 14  
Total: (All out in 50 overs) 222  
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-49, 3-49, 4-51, 5-97, 6-176, 7-180, 8-204, 9-209

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	10	0	52	2
Finn	10	1	24	3
Broad	10	2	42	3
Swann	10	0	44	0
Patel	8	1	37	0
Bopara	2	0	12	0

**ENGLAND**  
Cook c Adnan b Ajmal 80  
Pietersen not out 111  
Morgan not out 24  
Extras: (b-3, nb-4, w-4) 11  
Total: (For 1 wkt in 37.2 overs) 226  
Did not bat: Trott, Bopara, Kieswetter, Patel, Broad, Swann, Anderson, Finn  
Fall of wickets: 1-170

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gul	7	0	59	0
Cheema	6.2	0	40	0
Ajmal	10	0	40	1
Hafeez	6	0	32	0
Afridi	8	0	52	0

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Science workplace  
4 One of the Seven Dwarfs  
7 Campus area, for short  
11 Baghdad's nation  
13 Gorilla  
14 Cold War country (Abbr.)  
15 List of options  
16 — canto  
17 Simple  
18 Avid  
20 Result of over-spending  
22 Piglet's mama  
24 Mideastern marketplace  
28 Donder's yokemate  
32 Cut in two  
33 Places  
34 Rock band, — Leppard  
36 Symbol of craziness  
37 Know like —  
39 Drop

**DOWN**  
1 Citrus fruit  
2 Vicinity  
3 Gunshot sound  
4 Touch lightly  
5 Newspaper page  
6 Star, for short  
7 Chief  
8 14-Across' foe  
9 Fool  
10 Parched  
12 It shares a key with the slash  
19 Cartoonist  
**Solution time: 24 mins.**

M	E	M	O	S	D	E	M	O	B
S	E	R	A	P	H	E	D	U	C
M	A	S	T	E	R	C	A	S	T
A	N	A	D	E	N	I	M	A	P
R	I	T	E	D	O	M	U	V	E
M	E	Z	Z	O	W	A	R	L	O
I	R	E	S	L	O	T			
R	E	D	N	E	S	S	D	R	U
E	R	T	E	C	O	W	A	L	I
E	R	G	S	O	N	I	C	S	K
F	A	S	T	E	R	V	E	A	S
S	T	U	A	R	T	E	M	A	S
A	P	R	E	S		S	P	A	R

## India

**FROM PAGE 16**

Tendulkar, who is still searching for his elusive 100th international century, came out to open with Gautam Gambhir but his run of poor form continued when he tried an upper-cut off Hilfenhaus only to be caught at deep third man by Xavier Doherty for three.

Gambhir had earlier fallen in the second over when he edged a fired-up Lee to wicketkeeper Matthew Wade as India's run chase got off to the worst possible start.

Lee and Wade combined soon after to dismiss Rohit Sharma for a duck before Virat Kohli fell in controversial circumstances when he was caught at first slip by David Hussey off Hilfenhaus.

The combative Kohli refused to walk until third umpire Bruce Oxenford confirmed the ball had carried, which he did despite replays appearing to indicate there was some doubt.

## SCOREBOARD

**AUSTRALIA**  
Wade c and b Sharma 45  
Warner c Tendulkar b Pathan 43  
Ponting c Pathan b Khan 7  
Forrest c Kohli b Pathan 52  
M Hussey c Raina b Pathan 59  
D Hussey not out 26  
Christian not out 30  
Extras: (lb-12, w-12, b-2) 28  
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 266  
Did not bat: Lee, Starc, Doherty, Hilfenhaus  
Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-83, 3-117, 4-217, 5-223

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	10	0	46	1
Vinay	10	0	60	0
Pathan	10	0	61	3
Raina	10	0	44	0
Yadav	7	0	46	0
Sharma	3	0	17	1

**INDIA**  
Gambhir c Wade b Lee 5  
Tendulkar c Doherty b Hilfenhaus 3  
Kohli c D Hussey b Hilfenhaus 12  
Sharma c Wade b Lee 0  
Raina c Wade b Christian 28  
Dhoni Christian Hilfenhaus 56  
Jadeja c Forrest b Starc 18  
Pathan c Wade b Hilfenhaus 19  
Vinay b Lee 6  
Zaheer c Wade Hilfenhaus 9  
Yadav not out 6  
Extras: (lb-4, w-10, nb-2) 16  
Total: (All out in 43.3 overs) 178  
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-15, 3-16, 4-36, 5-82, 6-114, 7-149, 8-162, 9-168

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	10	0	49	3
Hilfenhaus	9.3	1	33	5
Christian	6	0	27	1
Starc	8	0	36	1

## Royals

**FROM PAGE 16**

In this match they just managed to cross the 100-run mark thanks to Sohail Tanvir (33) and Naaem Islam (22 not out) who contributed some runs to avert the blushes of a sub-100 total. Barisal, which also dropped its regular skipper Shahriar Nafees citing team combination, increased their points tally to six points from as many matches with this emphatic win.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**SYLHET:** 120-7 in 20 overs (Akmal 17, Imrul 13, Tanvir 33, Naeem 22 not out; Forhad 2-16, Shuvo 3-20)

**BARISAL:** 121-1 in 13.2 overs (Shehzad 60, Hodge 54 not out) **Result:** Barisal Burners won by nine wickets.

## Emeka

**FROM PAGE 16**

"We received the reply from the AFC today (Sunday). They said that the documents regarding Emeka's licenses are not equivalent to either AFC-B or C licenses," said BFF's acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag yesterday.

According to the professional football league bylaws, for the season 2011-12, participating clubs must have at least a coach with AFC B-license certificate and the foreign coach of participating teams must have a coaching certificate equivalent to AFC-B license.

Though coaching licence regarding the foreign coach is clearly mentioned in the bylaws, the BFF's acting general secretary thinks that Emeka is eligible to stand at the dugout since Abdul Quaium, the assistant coach of Mohammedan, has an AFC B-license certificate.

"AFC B-license is only applicable for the foreign coach if the local coaches do not have an AFC B-license. Besides, the bylaws do not mention anywhere that the head coach must have an AFC B-license certificate.

"Actually we can't take any action against him because of the loopholes of the bylaws, but we will make sure that everything is mentioned properly in the bylaws from the next time," said Shohag.

Emeka has already guided the Black and Whites in the first two matches of the professional football league as the football's governing body gave the Nigerian a special consideration for the time they awaited AFC's reply.

## Groin injury

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"Right now what I can say is that the groin injury was the reason behind my absence. I will play once I feel that I am fit enough. I'm not ready to take any risks because to me the national duty is more important than anything else. We have an Asia Cup next month and I want to play for my country then," said Tamim.

"I'm going through unbearable pain because for any player it is hard to sit in the dressing room for long and that was the reason I started to cry when I had to pull out my name at the last moment yesterday. I hope everything will be okay within a short time," added the dejected national opener.

In the end, it seems that everything will depend on whether Tamim wants to play or not.

"I can assure you he can play if he wants," said head coach Khaled Mahmud.

# LOCAL snippets

## SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani posted their second successive victory in the Exim Bank-Noorjahan Group Shaheed Smriti Hockey Tournament when they beat Bangladesh Air Force 3-2 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Abahani had to wait for thirty two minutes to open the scoring before Iqbal Nadir Prince put the Sky Blues ahead through a field goal while Hasan Jubair Niloy doubled the margin 10 minutes into the second half.

Air Force showed signs of recovery when Shamim Mia converted a penalty corner in the 53rd minute but Moshir Rahman Biplob sealed the match for Abahani converting a penalty corner six minutes from time.

## 2nd Div Football

Both fixtures of the Destiny Group 2nd Division Football League ended in draws at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Friends Social Welfare Organisation shared points with Shadhinata KS after playing out a goalless draw while East End Club and Little Friends Club followed their footsteps as they too drew 0-0 at the same venue.

## Pallima badminton

Rony, Shuvo and Moni advanced to the next round of the men's singles in the Prime Bank Pallima Sangsad Badminton Tournament beating their respective rivals at the club premises yesterday.

Rony defeated Shehbaz 21-13, 21-09, Shuvo beat Minhaz 9-21, 21-8 and 21-15 and Moni beat Ritun 21-15, 15-21 and 21-18.

# SA crush NZ

## Cricket

AFP, Hamilton

South Africa's Richard Levi rewrote the record books with a magnificent unbeaten 117 as the Proteas crushed New Zealand by eight wickets in the second Twenty20 international on Sunday.

Levi's 45-ball century was the fastest ever in T20 internationals and included the most sixes, with 13, in a performance which had spectators at the sold out Seddon Park ground in Hamilton ducking for cover.

His 117 run total also equalled the highest ever score by a batsman in a T20 international, matching the mark set by Chris Gayle of the West Indies against South Africa in 2007.

South African skipper AB de Villiers (39) provided able support as his team reached the 174 target set by New Zealand with ease, but it was Levi who demolished the Black Caps in only his second international appearance.

The win levels the three match series 1-1 heading into the final game in Auckland on Wednesday.

Levi came out firing, plundering 23 off 10 balls in the first two overs, and never relented even after Hashim Amla (2) and Wayne Parnell (4) departed early.

He punished all of New Zealand's bowlers but it was a particularly painful night for Doug Bracewell, who conceded 37 runs off his two overs.

New Zealand had made four for 173, never managing to dominate as South Africa's bowlers produced a far better display than in their six-wicket loss in the opening match in Wellington on Friday.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**NEW ZEALAND:** 173 for 4 in 20 overs (Guptill 47, B McCullum 35, Franklin 28, Williamson 28 not out, Nicol 23; Botha 1-22)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 174 for 2 in 16 overs (Levi 117 not out, De Villiers 39 not out; Nicol 1-10)

**Result:** South Africa won by eight wickets.

**Man-of-the-match:** Richard Levi.