

King Nadal

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal defied David Ferrer as well as a worrying security breach to become the first man to capture the same Grand Slam title eight times on Sunday with victory in the French Open final.

Nadal claimed his 12th major with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win over his Spanish compatriot who was playing in his first Grand Slam final at the age of 31 and at the 42nd time of asking.

It also gave Nadal his 59th win out of 60 matches played in Paris.

However, the 27-year-old's push to victory suffered a heart-stopping moment when a protestor, naked from the waist up, leapt from the stands on Court Philippe Chatrier, carrying a flare and protesting France's controversial same-sex marriage law.

A burly security official immediately



came to Nadal's aid in front of the VIP box where Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt and Hollywood superstar Leonardo DiCaprio were watching.

The drama, however, didn't alter the outcome as Nadal claimed his seventh title of 2013 after returning to the tour in February following a seven-month injury lay-off.

"Thanks to everyone in my family and team. Without their support, especially when I was out of action, this would have been impossible," said Nadal.

Ferrer hadn't dropped a set in the tournament and had spent six hours fewer on court getting to his maiden final.

But he was in serious trouble and he knew it, suddenly confronted by Nadal's record of 145 wins against just three losses when he had won the first set of a Grand Slam match.



PHOTO: AFP

Clay king Rafael Nadal, who has already made the French Open his exclusive property, fires a fierce double-fisted forehand return on way to winning the title for the eighth time, which is also a Grand Slam record. Nadal won the final against David Ferrer 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

ICC engineer in town

SPORTS REPORTER

An International Cricket Council (ICC) engineer reached Dhaka last night to oversee the preparatory work going on at Bangladesh's proposed venues for the World Twenty20 to be held next year. The ICC official is scheduled to visit Mirpur today and travel to Chittagong tomorrow. He'll also be visiting the venues at Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and BKSP before leaving on June 14.

Renovation work is taking place in a number of stadiums in the country to host the Twenty20 World Cup next year.

Fahad on top

SPORTS REPORTS

Former national junior champion Fahad Rahman of Bangladesh was in joint top position, along with seven others, with two points after the end of second round in the Standard Chess of under-10 group of the 14th ASEAN Age Group Chess Championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand yesterday.

Russel eyeing a fourth

SPORTS REPORTER



Sheikh Russel KC have already written their names in the history books by winning three titles this season and now they are looking forward to going one more by winning the season's fourth and last title, that of Super Cup which set to start from June 14.

"We want to create history in the country's football by winning the Super Cup to add to our three titles," said Sheikh Russel KC's captain-cum-goalscorer Biplob Bhattacharjee at an official press briefing at the BFF House yesterday.

However, the assignment will be a tough one as Sheikh Russel will miss foreign booters like Sony Norde, Tareq El Janabi who had a key role in their treble triumph since the game's governing body have decided to keep the foreign footballers out of the competition in a bid to give the local booters a platform to perform.

"It is true that our foreign players made a big difference in some crucial matches in the tournaments and the league but I think we have some quality local players to replace them," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque.

"The Super Cup is not a pressure tournament for us. We enjoy playing under the pressure and we proved it in the past by taking it as a challenge," said Maruful. "Without foreign players, anyone can pull out victory on their given day. However, as



Can Sheikh Russel coach Maruful Haque (C) complete the Grand Slam of domestic football?

PHOTO: STAR

we said before we wanted to win all titles of the season and the aim still remains the same."

Maruful has made his players work hard in the past two weeks so that they can deal with playing three matches in five days in group stage.

However, Maruful has some injury concern as he might miss the services of Mamunul Islam, Zahid Hossain, Zahid Hasan Emily, Mithun Chowdhury against Feni Soccer Club in the Group A opener, a group which also consists Abahani and Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

"We have roped in 15 new players in our 30-member squad and you will see the reflection of it in the group-stage matches," said Feni Soccer joint secretary Shakhawat Hossain Shahin, whose side narrowly escaped relegation by finishing second last in the premier league.

SL-NZ SCOREBOARD				
SRI LANKA				
Perera c B McCullum b Mills	0			
Dilshan b McClenaghan	20			
Sangakkara c Williamson b N McCullum	68			
Jayawardene lbw b Vettori	4			
Chandimal c Ronchi b Mills	0			
Mathews b McClenaghan	9			
Thirimanne run out	9			
Perera c Vettori b McClenaghan	15			
Herath not out	8			
Eranga c Mills b N McCullum	0			
Malinga c Taylor b McClenaghan	2			
Extras: (lb-1, w-2)	3			
Total: (All out in 37.5 overs)	138			
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-27, 3-33, 4-34, 5-65, 6-82, 7-118, 8-135, 9-135				
Bowler				
Mills	6	0	14	2
McClenaghan	8.5	0	43	4
Vettori	6	1	16	1
Southee	7	1	25	0
N McCullum	8	0	23	2
Williamson	2	0	16	0
NEW ZEALAND				
Guptill c Jayawardene b Eranga	25			
Ronchi c Sangakkara b Eranga	7			
Williamson lbw b Malinga	16			
Taylor lbw b Herath	0			
Franklin lbw b Dilshan	6			
B McCullum b Malinga	18			
Vettori lbw b Malinga	5			
N McCullum lbw b Malinga	32			
Southee not out	13			
Mills run out	3			
McClenaghan not out	1			
Extras: (lb-8, w-5)	13			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 36.3 overs)	139			
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-48, 3-49, 4-49, 5-70, 6-80, 7-115, 8-122, 9-134				
Bowler				
Malinga	10	2	34	4
Eranga	8	0	45	2
Herath	10	0	36	1
Dilshan	6.3	1	12	1
Perera	2	0	4	0
Result: New Zealand won by 1 wicket.				
Player-of-the-match: Nathan McCullum.				

Lights out at SBNS

SPORTS REPORTER



Lady luck has not been smiling on the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) lately. If coping with the fixing allegations and the inconsistency surrounding the Dhaka Premier League were not enough, the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium (SBNS) experienced a seven-hour power cut yesterday, temporarily jolting the richest sporting board of the country.

Electricity was cut off at noon and returned only in the evening following drastic measures taken by board officials. It was learnt that the reason behind the cut-off was the board's pending dues worth Tk 1.09 crore.

"The main problem is that there's only one electric metre which tracks the power usage of the stadium, the National Cricket Academy, the 86 shops within it and the sports village," said Colonel AKM Zaki, venue administrator of the SBNS.

"The BCB isn't willing to pay the total due as it includes the bills of the shops as well," he added.

The problem, the official claimed, has been going on for a while and a host of letters were exchanged between the National Sports Council (NSC), under whose name the bill is made, and the BCB.

"In order to resolve the problem we have asked the NSC to make provisions for separate electric meters a number of times," said Zaki. "Currently the NSC collects the bills from the shops, as per the sub-meters present there, which NSC is supposed to pay us," he added. However, the BCB in its letter to the NSC stated that the board was not too keen on the way the dues were collected from the shops.

In June 2012, the NSC sent a letter to the BCB stating that the process of creating separate electric meters had begun. Having received that letter the BCB paid Tk 20 lakh to the Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) and cleared its dues up till that time. The BCB then sent a letter to the NSC asking it for the bills of the shops. In reply, the NSC stated that the council had done some repair works at the Fatullah and Bangabandhu stadiums and that according to the NSC's calculations the BCB owed it approximately Tk 17 lakh.

The problem was temporarily solved at 6:45 pm yesterday and the lights at the stadium glowed yet again, after the venue administrator submitted a letter of undertaking to DESCO.

Steyn to miss Pakistan clash

AFP, Birmingham



South Africa are set to be without Dale Steyn once again at the Champions Trophy when they face Pakistan at Edgbaston on Monday.

Steyn, widely regarded as the best fast bowler currently in world cricket, missed the Proteas' opening 26-run Group B defeat by India in Cardiff on Thursday with a side strain.

And South Africa captain AB de Villiers, speaking to reporters at Edgbaston on Sunday, was pessimistic about Steyn's chances of facing Pakistan.

"The final decision hasn't been made yet, but it's not looking good," de Villiers said. "The chances are he'll only be ready for the last one [South Africa's final group match against the West Indies in Cardiff on June 14].

"We are still hanging on to that last little bit of hope he could wake up tomorrow [Monday] morning and do a bit of a fitness test and look good for the game, but it's not looking good at all."

South Africa's fast bowling resources were further depleted when Morne Morkel, who limped off while bowling his seventh over against India, was ruled out of the tournament with a leg injury.



PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum pulls off a stunning two-handed flying catch at second slip to herald the fall of opener Kusal Perera off the first ball of the Sri Lankan innings during their ICC Champions Trophy match at Cardiff yesterday.

Kiwis edge out Sri Lanka

AFP, Cardiff



New Zealand survived a hostile spell from sling-arm fast bowler Lasith Malinga to carve out a tense one-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the Champions Trophy on Sunday.

The Black Caps messed up a simple chase of Sri Lanka's 138 all out and were reduced to 122-8, before the last-wicket pair of Tim Southee and Mitchell McClenaghan saw them through in the 37th over.

Left-arm seamer McClenaghan set up the victory with 4-43 after Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat, but Malinga stole the thunder with 4-34 that almost secured his team an improbable victory.

The dramatic win helped New Zealand end a six-match losing streak against the Sri Lankans and claim full

points in their first match of the eight-nation tournament.

New Zealand were cruising at 48-1 when Sri Lanka hit back with three wickets for one run in the space of eight deliveries.

Malinga triggered the collapse with a full toss that crashed into Kane Williamson's pads. Umpire Rod Tucker upheld an appeal for leg-before.

Ross Taylor was leg-before to spinner Rangana Herath for zero, before Martin Guptill edged seamer Shaminda Eranga high to Mahela Jayawardene in the slips.

When James Franklin fell leg-before to Tillakaratne Dilshan in the 15th over, New Zealand had lost half their side for 70 runs.

Brothers Brendon and Nathan McCullum put on 35 for the seventh wicket to raise New Zealand's hopes before Malinga removed both bats-

men in three balls to make it 122-8 in the 32nd over.

The ninth wicket of Kyle Mills fell when five runs were needed, and even though Malinga conceded just one run in the next over, Dilshan gave away four runs to seal the Black Caps' win.

Sri Lanka, who had won 10 of their last 11 completed 50-over games against New Zealand, let themselves down with a sloppy batting display in the first session.

Veteran Kumar Sangakkara played a lone hand for the Islanders with 68, his 75th one-day half-century, but five of the other six top-order batsmen failed to reach double figures as the team folded in 37.5 overs.

www.singerbd.com

KEEP YOUR POCKET FULL

Carry all your favorite apps with you. Singer brings cutting-edge Windows 8 and Android Jelly Bean phones from world-renowned smartphone brand Huawei, at very smart prices.

Ascend W1

Ascend G510

Ascend Y300

Ascend Y200

Available at:

SINGER THE BIG EXPERIENCE

SINGER Plus MORE BRANDS • MORE CHOICE

SINGER Pro and your nearest mobile phone stores