

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS4

Wimbledon Championships

Men's & Women's Second Rd

Live from 4:30pm

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C'WEALTH CHESS Sagar best among Bangladeshis

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Minhaz Uddin Ahmed Sagar finished as the best Bangladeshi player in the Commonwealth Chess Championship which concluded in New Delhi, India yesterday. Sagar finished in 10th position with seven points from nine games. GM Ziaur Rahman became 20th with 6.5 points, GM Niaz Murshed became 33rd and FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed became 44th with 6 points each.

In the ninth and last round, Sagar beat Jaya Kumar, Zia drew against Sanjay Kumar, Nasir beat WIM Pratyusha Boddha while Niaz lost against IM Vijayalakshmi. GM Abhijeet Gupta of India became

Bolt out of Paris meet

AFP, Paris

Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt has withdrawn from the Paris Diamond League meet this Saturday, the organisers announced on Tuesday.

Bolt is suffering from a leg injury which forced him out of last week's Jamaican championships.

He has also pulled out of the Lausanne meet on July 9. "I'm disappointed not to be able to compete in Paris and Lausanne. I love running at these meetings but at the moment I am unable to compete at 100 percent," Bolt said.

The withdrawal is the latest setback for the 28-year-old who has not completed a full season since 2013, when he won three golds at the Moscow world championships, in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay.

Cech hungry for success

AFP, London

Petr Cech said he had the "same hunger for success" after his move across London from Chelsea to Arsenal was confirmed Monday when the Gunners announced he had agreed to join them on a "long-term contract for an undisclosed fee" from the Premier League champions.

The 33-year-old Czech international goalkeeper made over 400 appearances during 11 years at Stamford Bridge after joining from French club Rennes.



Swiss star Roger Federer hits a return against Bosnia and Herzegovina's Damir Dzumhur during their men's singles first round match in Wimbledon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Fed, Nadal race thru'

AFP, London



Seven-time champion Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 winner, raced into the Wimbledon second round Tuesday as the tournament sweltered in near record-breaking heat.

Second seeded Federer, bidding to become the first man to win eight Wimbledon titles and take his majors tally to 18, enjoyed a 67-minute 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 win over Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia, the world number 88 he beat at the French Open this year.

Federer will face Sam Querrey of the United States for a place in the last 32.

Nadal, defeated in the second, first and fourth rounds in the last three years, reached the second round with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win over Thomaz Bellucci, his fifth win in five meetings against the 42nd-ranked Brazilian.

Tenth-seeded Nadal, his lowest ranking for a decade, faces Germany's Dustin Brown for a place in the last 32.

Andy Murray defied sweltering temperatures to kick off his bid for a second Wimbledon title with a comfortable 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 victory over Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin.

Defending women's champion Petra Kvitova, the second seed, took just 35 minutes to reach the second round, cruising to a 6-1, 6-0 win over Kiki Bertens, the world number 108 from the Netherlands.

Kvitova, also the 2011 champion, dropped just one point on serve and next meets Kurumi Nara of Japan for a place in the last 32.

"It's great to be back on Centre Court and unbelievable to see all the people clapping,"

said the Czech, who had been laid low by illness in the week before the tournament.

Kvitova's only dropped point on serve came on a double fault in the final game of the match.

The powerful 25-year-old left-hander would have been relieved to have enjoyed a brief first round outing as temperatures rocketed to around 30 degrees Celsius.

Wednesday is expected to see a Wimbledon record high of around 35 degrees which would require the heat index, where matches are briefly suspended, to be consulted.

Organisers say the heat rule, which allows for a 10-minute break between the second and third sets of women's matches, can be used when temperatures rise above 30.1 degrees Celsius.

Eugenie Bouchard, who reached the Wimbledon final last year, was dumped out in the first round by China's Duan Ying-Ying, the world number 117.

The 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 defeat against the qualifier was 12th seeded Bouchard's 12th loss in her last 14 matches and will see her drop out of the world top 20.

However, the rule which has been adopted by Wimbledon after lobbying from the WTA, does not apply to men even though they have to slug it out over the best of five sets.

The highest-ever temperature recorded at Wimbledon was 34C in 1976.

Nadal, who lives in sun-kissed Mallorca, said he would be happy to see the sun keep shining.

"In Australia it can be much, much worse so it's no comparison but actually it's beautiful," said the Spaniard.

"When you have this weather here in Wimbledon it's probably one of the best places in the world."

CHILE IN FINAL AFTER 28 YEARS Vargas on the double

AFP, Santiago



Eduardo Vargas scored twice as Chile downed fierce rivals Peru 2-1 here Monday to reach the Copa America final for the first time in nearly 30 years.

Vargas, who endured a miserable season on loan at relegated English Premier League side Queens Park Rangers, lashed in a stunning 64th-minute strike as the hosts advanced to the final for the first time since 1987.

Vargas had given Chile a controversial lead after 42 minutes, prodding home from close range after the referee's assistant failed to spot a fractional offside.

Peru, who played most of the match with 10 men after Carlos Zambrano was sent off for a reckless challenge on Charles Aranguiz after 20 minutes, came back bravely to force an equaliser through a Gary Medel own goal in the 60th minute.

But Vargas, who also had a legitimate goal wrongly ruled out for offside early in the second half, restored Chile's lead with a contender for goal of the tournament.

The 25-year-old picked up a loose ball in midfield, surged forward and unleashed a ferocious dipping 30-yard effort that flew into the top corner past Peru goalkeeper Pedro Gallese.

"I've been practicing shooting from

long range in training and doing quite well with them, so when I found myself in that position I had the confidence to shoot," Vargas told Chilean television.

"I'm very happy that we're in the final," added the 25-year-old, who also scored Chile's controversial opening goal in the first half to give his side the lead.

Chile will now play the winner of Tuesday's semifinal between Argentina and Paraguay as they chase a first ever Copa America crown after 99 years of failure.

The latest instalment of Chile and Peru's long football rivalry -- known as the "Clasico del Pacifico" -- burst into life after only four minutes, when Chile's Arturo Vidal tangled angrily with Zambrano.

Vidal was fortunate to escape at least a booking for thrusting a hand in Zambrano's face as tempers threatened to boil over.

Moments later, Venezuelan referee Jose Argota moved to nip the tensions in the bud, showing Zambrano a yellow card for tugging down Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez.

Yet while Chile made the brighter start, it was Peru that came closest to scoring in the opening minutes, with Jefferson Farfan's header from a Paolo Guerrero cross cannoning back off the woodwork.

The match turned in the 20th minute after Zambrano's dismissal.

The centre-half was given his

marching orders after catching Charles Aranguiz with an ugly studs-up challenge as he followed through after a clearance.

Sensing Peru's vulnerability, Chile turned up the pressure and might have opened the scoring through Jorge Valdivia on 28 minutes, only for the influential playmaker's curling shot to fly just wide.

Six minutes later, Chile were denied again when Peru defender Luis Advincula produced a superb last-ditch block from Vargas to clear.

Three minutes before half-time, though, Peru's resistance broke when Sanchez's cross from the left bounced back off the inside of the upright for Vargas to bundle home from close range.

The goal was harsh on Peru, though, as replays showed Vargas was fractionally offside when Sanchez crossed.

Chile sought to press home their advantage after the break and Vargas was unlucky to see a superb volleyed goal ruled out.

Peru clawed their way back into the contest on the hour mark when Guerrero released Advincula down the right.

The fullback's cross caused havoc in the Chile area and Medel panicked and prodded home past Claudio Bravo.

Peru's celebrations were short-lived though when Vargas crashed in his winning goal four minutes later.

Guus steps down

AFP, The Hague



Under-pressure Netherlands coach Guus Hiddink, whose side have struggled in qualifying for Euro 2016, has stepped down, the Dutch football federation (KNVB) announced on Monday.

"Guus Hiddink and the KNVB decided on Monday to end the manager's contract from July 1," a federation statement confirmed.

"I regret this decision," said KNVB director of football Bert van Oostveen.

"Unfortunately the rewards of Guus's work weren't immediately visible to everyone, we thank Guus for his commitment," he added.

Hiddink, whose contract was due to run until after Euro 2016, described it as "an honour" to occupy the Dutch hot seat for a second time, the former PSV Eindhoven player and boss adding: "I find it a pity that it ended like this" and sending best wishes to his successor.

Earlier Monday anonymous federation sources claimed that Hiddink's assistant Danny Blind will "directly" replace him, according to the daily De Telegraaf, public television station NOS and specialist magazine Voetbal International.

But the federation's statement announcing Hiddink's exit stressed: "We are still looking at who will take over the position".

The Oranje finished third at last year's World Cup under Louis van Gaal but with Hiddink at the helm their form in the qualifying campaign for next year's European Championship in France has been poor.



Gervinho's requests 'obscene'

AFP, Milan

Requests by Gervinho for a helicopter and a private beach as part of the deal that would take him from Roma to Al-Jazira were described as 'obscene' by the Emirati club, according to reports on Tuesday.

Gervinho was set to end his mitigated two-year spell with the Serie A club and join Al-Jazira in the United Arab Emirates this week on a reported four-year deal worth 13m euros.

But the move collapsed because of Gervinho's string of demands, which also included accommodation for his family and regular airplane tickets to travel to his native Ivory Coast, said La Gazzetta dello Sport.

Reports from the Emirates suggest Gervinho's demands alerted the club to possible future problems with the player, and they are not expected to pursue the deal any further.



Chile forward Eduardo Vargas (L) celebrates one of his two goals with teammates during their Copa America semifinal against Peru in Santiago on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP