



Chile's Copa America winners took their trophy -- and their party -- to the La Moneda presidential palace in Santiago to celebrate with President Michelle Bachelet (C).

Williams sisters hog limelight Men's big 4 clash as well

AFP, London

Serena and Venus Williams will clash at Wimbledon for the first time in six years on Monday, but the sisters' ferocious appetite for success suggests it might be premature to kill it as an emotional final fling.

The sisters, who meet in the most anticipated fourth round tie of the tournament, have reigned supreme for much of the last two decades at Wimbledon, lifting the aptly named Venus Rosewater Dish five times each.

With 27 Grand Slam titles between them, the siblings are well established as two of the greatest female players in the tennis history.

However, 17 years after their first tour-level meeting at the Australian Open, the sisters are still as relentlessly competitive as they were when Richard first put a racket in their hands.

After a troubled period three years ago, when a serious foot injury and her lust for the celebrity lifestyle seemed to have taken its toll, Serena has been reinvigorated by coach Patrick Mouratoglou -- winning seven of the last 11 Grand Slams.

A sixth Wimbledon title this year would mean Serena holds all four major titles at the same time and would put her on the brink of becoming the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1988 to win a calendar Grand Slam.

Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Stan Wawrinka and Andy Murray remain on course for the Wimbledon semi-finals ahead of 'manic Monday' when the last-16 takes place.

Six of the top 10 seeds are safely into the business end of the tournament after a first week which saw seventh seed Milos Raonic and 10th-seeded Rafael Nadal defeated on court.

Fifth seed Kei Nishikori withdrew before the second round with a calf injury while eighth-seeded David Ferrer pulled out before the first round.

Defending Djokovic will face South African 14th seed Kevin Anderson in the fourth round, defending a 4-1 career lead.

Anderson won their first meeting in 2008 but since then it's been the world number one who has been on top winning the next four without dropping a set, including a straight sets win at Wimbledon in the second round four years ago.

Federer, 33, chasing a record eighth Wimbledon and 18th major, has dropped just one set so far, in his third round win over Sam Groth.

The Swiss, playing his 17th successive Wimbledon, faces Spanish 20th seed Roberto Bautista Agut, who is in the fourth round for the first time.

Murray, the 2013 champion tackles 36-year-old Ivo Karlovic, the oldest man to make the fourth round at the All England Club since compatriot Niki Pilic in 1976.

The 23rd seed is also the oldest to reach the last-16 of any of the four Grand Slams since 39-year-old Jimmy Connors at the 1991 US Open.

Fourth seed and French Open champion Wawrinka faces Belgian 16th seed David Goffin who has made the fourth round at Wimbledon for the first time, equaling his previous best at a major when he came out of qualifying to reach the French Open last 16 in 2012.

Wawrinka has a 2-0 lead over Goffin with both wins coming on the hard courts of Chennai in 2011 and 2015.

American wildcard Denis Kudla is the lowest ranked player left in the tournament.

The world number 105 was winning a second-tier Challenger tournament at Ilkley in Yorkshire, northern England on the eve of Wimbledon.

Messi's family attacked

INTERNET

Family members of Lionel Messi who were in attendance Saturday for the 2015 Copa America final between Chile and Argentina were reportedly harassed by Chile supporters.

According to the report, some fans inside the Estadio Nacional in Santiago, Chile, lobbed verbal insults toward Messi's family. One supporter also struck Rodrigo Messi, the four-time Ballon d'Or winner's older brother.

Members of Sergio Aguero's family were also targets for some of the more rabid Chile fans, but it doesn't appear they were involved in any physical alteration.

Chile went on to win the final 4-1 on penalties after the two countries were scoreless through extra time.

Copa is red hot Chile Messi's international cabinet still bare

AFP, Santiago



Chile wrecked Lionel Messi's dream of a first international title with a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over Argentina to end their 99-year, 36 tournament wait for a Copa America crown on Saturday.

Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez struck the winning spot-kick for Chile, as the hosts clinched a 4-1 shoot-out victory when the game ended goalless after extra time.

Sanchez chipped the decisive penalty down the middle past Sergio Romero to spark wild celebrations in front of a 45,000 capacity crowd at the Estadio Nacional in Santiago.

Chile took control of the shoot-out when Gonzalo Higuain blazed his penalty over the bar before Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo saved Ever Banega's spot-kick.

Argentina captain Messi, aiming to inspire the South American giants to a

first international title in 22 years, could only look on distraught as Chile celebrated.

The four-time world footballer of the year had repeatedly spoken of his desperation to win a title with Argentina after winning everything at club level with Barcelona.

Chile's win was their first ever victory over Argentina in the Copa

**CHILE 0 - 0 ARGENTINA
CHILE WON 4-1 ON PENALTIES**

America.

"It is a dream come true. We have worked so hard for this," said Chile star Arturo Vidal.

The midfielder said Chile had been determined to win the Copa America after exiting the World Cup last year on penalties.

"We talked about it in Brazil that we were going to win the Copa America," Sanchez said. This is really a great generation, we deserve this."

However, coach Jorge Sampaoli predicted they could still struggle to qualify for the next World Cup.

"When you win something as important as this people start to dream of the future, but the World Cup qualifiers have really nothing to do with this success," Sampaoli.

"I have to take my hat off to the guys, they played with a lot of class and composure against a team that obviously have a lot of quality and a lot of good players."

Sampaoli said he was pleased with the way Chile dealt with the threat of Argentine playmaker Lionel Messi, who had a quiet match by his own high standards.

"The idea of the match was to neutralize their important players, including the best player in the world. I'm sure that if Argentina had got the chance to dominate, Messi would have shown that he is the best player in the world," Sampaoli said.

"One defeat, one lost final, isn't going to change what Lionel Messi is."

Minhazul and Emon Babu netted one goal each, while two were suicidal own-goals.

Nippon slotted four goals to power Gopalganj to a convincing 4-1 win over Madaripur in Gopalganj while Mohammad Ibrahim struck a hat-trick to help Narayanganj beat Chuadanga 3-1.

In Moulvibazar, Comilla thrashed Sunamganj 6-0, Nagogaon beat Rajshahi 1-0 in Rajshahi, Thakurgaon defeated Dinajpur 2-1, Satkhira hammered Magura 3-0 and Cox's Bazar trounced Khagrachari 4-2.

Dhaka rout Gazipur

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace each from Borhanuddin and Jewel steered Dhaka to a massive 8-0 win over Gazipur in the Sailor-BFF National U15 Football Championship at Tangail Stadium in Tangail yesterday.

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Argentina's Copa curse continues

AFP, Santiago



Argentina enforcer Javier Mascherano was at a loss to explain his team's latest tournament defeat after Saturday's loss to Chile at the Copa America.

Mascherano has now finished on the losing side in three Copa America finals -- 2004, 2007 and 2015 -- as well as last year's World Cup final.

"Three Copa America finals, three defeats ... I can't explain the losing streak," a dejected Mascherano said.

"Overall I thought we had a very good Copa America but we have fallen short once again. But you have to give credit to the opponents as well," Mascherano added.

"We just didn't seem to have that little bit of luck that you sometimes need to have to win in finals. Is it karma? I don't know," Mascherano added.

Mascherano cut a desolate figure in the centre circle as Argentina prepared for penalties, his eyes welling with tears amid excruciating tension at Santiago's Estadio Nacional.

Argentina coach Gerardo Martino said his side did not deserve to lose the match after both teams "neutralised" each other.

"In the 120 minutes, in a very high quality game where the two teams neutralised each other more than play, the one who I think should have won was Argentina," said Martino at a press conference after the game.

"In a short time we have acquired a way of playing and we've been pretty good, but there is room for improvement," he said.

Messi's failure with Argentina again raised the debate of how best to have him play for his country when he carries all before him with Barcelona.

It would appear to justify unfavourable comparisons with Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to their second World Cup title in 1986.

Mathews puts SL on top

AFP, Pallekele



Skipper Angelo Mathews battled his way to an unbeaten 77 as Sri Lanka seized the advantage in the series-deciding third and final Test against Pakistan in Pallekele on Sunday.

The hosts gained a first innings lead of 63 runs and then recovered from 35-3 in their second knock to post 228-5 by stumps on a rain-interrupted third day.

Mathews led from the front against a tiring Pakistani attack, adding 45 for the fourth wicket with Upul Tharanga (48) and 81 for the fifth with Jehan Mubarak (35).

Mubarak marked his recall to the Test side after almost eight years with a gutsy 35 before he was caught at short-leg off Yasir Shah in the final session.

Sri Lanka will begin the fourth day with a commanding overall lead of 291 runs with five wickets in hand, having a clear advantage on the wearing pitch to break the 1-1 deadlock in the series.

Play was held up twice by passing showers in the morning session and once again before tea, keeping the hard-working ground staff on their toes as they rushed in the covers to guard both the wicket and the outfield.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SRI LANKA: First innings 278 (Karunaratne 130, Tharanga 46; Yasir 5-78, Rahat 3-74)

PAKISTAN: First innings 215 all out (Shehzad 21, Azhar 52, Sarfraz 78 not out, Yasir 18; Prasad 3-78, Pradeep 3-29, Kaushal 3-37)

SRI LANKA: Second innings 228 for 5 (Tharanga 48, Mathews 77 not out, Mubarak 35, Chandimal 39 not out; Rahat 2-58, Yasir 2-70)

Expatriate talents on BFF's agenda

SPORTS REPORTER



While the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is trying to naturalise foreign players in a bid to strengthen the national football team to get immediate results, expatriate footballers are showing their interest to be a part of the Bangladesh national team at different age-levels.

The BFF is yet to place the applications of naturalisation for the three foreign players to the home ministry, but three England-based Bangladeshi players have already sent their bio-datas to the game's governing body, showing a keen interest to play for the Bangladesh U-19 national team in the upcoming SAFF U-19 Championship and AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers in August-September.

They are Akmal, Rabbi Islam and Rahim Uddin, who are all based in Cardiff.

"Of them, Akmal belongs to the U-21 age group, but Rabbi and Rahim are from the U-19 group. We want to have all of them, though Rabbi and Rahim are expected to come to Bangladesh for trials," said coach Saiful Bari Titu yesterday.

BFF officials are constantly in touch with the Wales based trio, who don't have a Bangladeshi passport. And those booters have been told that the federation will start

the procedure of getting their Bangladeshi passports, if they are selected for the national team at any level.

Rahim is very interested to take part in the Bangladesh U-19 team and has promised to come to Bangladesh after his probable trial at West Ham United.

Meanwhile, Denmark-based Jamal Bhuiyan is the lone expatriate member of the Bangladesh national football team, while Philippines-based Reasat Islam was once included for the national team for the Joint Qualifiers of the World Cup and Asian Cup this year.

Apart from Akmal, Rabbi and Rahim, the game's governing body has been looking for more expatriate booters and they have found some England-based talents like Hamza Chowdhury -- who is being monitored by big name clubs such as Chelsea, Manchester United and Barcelona -- Zidan Miah, a teenage midfielder, Jaki Baranshil, Simanta Ahmed, Yasin Talha, Raheem Fernandez, Ahmeduzzaman Onasis and Zaman Arik.

"Yes, we have found them through the internet and they are thought to be Bangladeshi-born players. We have yet to communicate with them, but we will do so, depending on whether they are interested to play for the Bangladesh national team at different levels," said Saiful Bari Titu.

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