

STARSPORTS1
England v Australia
First Test, Day 1
Live from 4:00pm

STARSPORTS2
Wimbledon Championships
Men's Quarterfinals
Live from 6:00pm

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Venue: BNS

Sk Russel v Mohammedan
Time: 4:15pm

Leo devastated by Copa final defeat

AFP, Buenos Aires

Lionel Messi has told of the pain of losing the Copa America final after the football superstar faced criticism in his native Argentina.

Messi finally posted a statement on his facebook account late Monday having hidden his devastation at losing another major final since the 4-1 penalty shootout defeat by Chile on Saturday.

"There's nothing more painful in football than losing a final," Messi said.

"But I don't want to leave it any longer to say thank you to everyone who has always supported us and continued to during the tough moments."

Mayweather stripped of WBO belt

AFP, Washington

Floyd Mayweather was Monday stripped by the World Boxing Organization of the welterweight world title he won by beating Manny Pacquiao two months ago in what was dubbed "the fight of the century".

Mayweather had failed to meet the deadline last Friday for paying the \$200,000 sanctioning fee required by the WBO after he took the belt from Pacquiao on May 2 in Las Vegas earning a reported \$220 million in the process.

Fahad 9th

SPORTS REPORTER

FM Fahad Rahman finished 9th in the Telegraph School Chess Championship in Kolkata, India yesterday. Fahad lost his ninth round game against India's Mitrabha Guha to secure seven points for a tied sixth place. His eventual position was later decided through tiebreak.

Nushrat Jahan Nafisa became 198th with 4.5 points while Ashabur Rahman Taif finished 293rd with 3.5 points.



World number one Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after defeating South Africa's Kevin Anderson in their men's singles fourth round match in Wimbledon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Novak's epic comeback

AFP, London



Defending champion Novak Djokovic survived a barrage from big-hitting Kevin Anderson to reach his seventh successive Wimbledon quarterfinal on Tuesday.

The top seed came from behind to win 6-7 (6/8), 6-7 (6/8), 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 in a last-16 tie suspended due to bad light on Monday at the end of the fourth set.

The Serb, who has now reached 25 Grand Slam quarterfinals in a row, goes on to face Croatia's US Open champion Marin Cilic for a place in the semifinals.

Cilic, 26, lost to Djokovic in five sets in the quarterfinals in 2014 despite being two sets to one ahead.

He then went on to win a maiden Grand Slam title at the US Open in September.

"I know him very well. We played many, many matches on different surfaces," said Djokovic after reaching his seventh successive Wimbledon quarterfinal and 25th in a row at the majors with a 6-7 (6/8), 6-7 (6/8), 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 win over Kevin Anderson of South Africa.

Djokovic will be the overwhelming favourite for that match on Wednesday -- he leads their head-to-head 12-0.

Anderson, the South African 14th seed, fired 40 aces and 71 winners but committed 41 unforced errors.

Djokovic crashed 43 winners past his opponent but hit just 19 unforced errors.

"I think Kevin served exceptionally well. I

found it one of the most difficult matches I've played in my Wimbledon career. At times I was really helpless with my returns. He was very aggressive," said Djokovic.

"I thought it was high-quality tennis in the fifth set."

"I was two sets down. To come back and win in five gives me great satisfaction and confidence for the next challenge."

After their match was suspended due to fading light on Monday, it was the 29-year-old Anderson who was the more aggressive first up Tuesday.

Under damp, overcast skies on Court One, Djokovic had to save two break points in the fourth game.

But Anderson eventually paid a heavy price for his all-or-nothing approach as he tried to break through into a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time in 26 attempts.

Serena Williams survived a scare to book a Wimbledon semifinal showdown with old rival Maria Sharapova as the world number one battled back to defeat Victoria Azarenka 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Maria Sharapova battled into her first Wimbledon semifinal since 2011 with a 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 6-2 victory over unseeded American Coco Vandeweghe.

Agnieszka Radwanska set up a Wimbledon semifinal clash with Spain's Garbine Muguruza after the Polish 13th seed defeated Madison Keys 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-3.

Muguruza reached her first Wimbledon semifinal with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Timea Bacsinszky.

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"AB de Villiers will not play the forthcoming ODI series against Bangladesh after South Africa released him from the squad. Hashim Amla will lead the team in his absence."

De Villiers was unavailable for the first ODI on July 10 due to a one-match suspension that was handed to him during the World Cup.

So South Africa's team management decided to release him from the remaining two games as well to try other batsmen and allow de Villiers time with his family.

"AB's presence and contributions will be missed but we have a hectic playing schedule this season and we felt this would be a great opportunity to develop the next tier of batters during this series, like we are doing with our bowlers," coach Russell Domingo said.

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