

SONY ESPN
South Africa v Pakistan
Fourth ODI
Live from 2:00pm
FA Cup
Chelsea v Sheffield
Live from 12:00am (Monday)

SONY SIX & TEN 2
Australian Open
Men's Singles final
Live from 2:30pm
TEN 1
West Indies v England
First Test, Day Five

Live from 8:00pm
TEN 2
La Liga
Girona v Barcelona
Live from 9:15pm
Serie A
Lazio v Juventus

Live from 1:30am (Monday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
Bundesliga
Bayern Munich v Stuttgart
Live from 8:30pm
Fortuna v Leipzig
Live from 11:00pm

DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR OSAKA

First Asian to win the Australian Open and become world number one

AFP, Melbourne

AO Japan's Naomi Osaka said she was "in a state of shock" Saturday after holding her nerve to battle past Petra Kvitova to win the Australian Open in a three-set thriller that also delivered her the world number one ranking.

The fourth seed and US Open champion triumphed 7-6 (7/2), 5-7, 6-4 in a 2hr 27min epic over the Czech eighth seed to claim back-to-back Grand Slams and become the first Asian, male or female, to hold the top spot.

The Japanese youngster fell to one knee in celebration, head bowed, as Melbourne Park erupted in thunderous cheers.

"I felt like I was in a state of shock through the entire trophy presentation," the 21-year-old said.

A rattled Osaka almost blew her title hopes with one hand on the trophy when she failed to convert three championship points leading 5-3 in the second set.

The never-say-die Kvitova forced a deciding set before Osaka finally edged ahead with a decisive break early in the third.

"Of course I felt very disappointed and sad when I had three match points," she said.

"I tried to tell myself there's nothing I can do about it. Told myself I'm playing a final and need to keep fighting and couldn't act immature and needed to keep fighting."

Her jubilation was a marked contrast to Osaka's maiden Slam win last year, when she tearfully hid her face as boos rang around Flushing Meadows in the wake of losing finalist Serena Williams' tirade at the umpire.

This time, Osaka cried with joy and smiled as she became the youngest woman to win back-to-back majors since Martina Hingis in 1998 and the youngest number one since Caroline Wozniacki in 2010.

Her gutsy performance confirms her status



"I felt like I was in a state of shock through the entire trophy presentation."

Japan's Naomi Osaka poses with the Australian Open trophy after her victory against Czech Republic's Petra Kvitova in the thrilling women's singles final in Melbourne yesterday. Osaka became the first Asian to hold the world number one spot.

PHOTO: REUTERS

as the leading light of tennis' new generation.

Kvitova can console herself with a career-best performance at Melbourne Park, where she did not drop a set on her way to the final.

It was her first Grand Slam decider since a burglar slashed her racquet hand in a 2016 knife attack and the Czech has shown she is

again a contender at the majors.

"Thank you for sticking with me even when we didn't know if I would be able to hold a racquet again," Kvitova told her team, with her voice cracking.

"It's crazy. I can hardly believe that I just played in a Grand Slam final again."

Predictions of a slugfest between two of the game's biggest hitters proved accurate as the pair went toe-to-toe in the first set.

They had never met before and Osaka initially struggled to unlock the lanky left-hander's serve, while Kvitova at times could not handle her opponent's powerful returns.

West Indies hammer England

AGENCIES, Bridgetown

Roston Chase took a career-best 8 for 60 as West Indies bowled England out for 246 runs in the second innings to win the first Test by a massive 381 runs on the fourth day at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday.

Earlier, Roston Chase took three wickets with his off-spin in the afternoon session as England chasing an improbable target of 628 to win lost four wickets to limp to tea at 217 for six.

Chase, who ended opening batsman Rory Burns' quest for a maiden Test century off the final delivery in the morning period of play, took the wickets Joe Root, Ben Stokes and Moeen Ali.

India crush NZ to make it 2-0

AFP, Mount Maunganui

India's celebrated opening pair Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan produced yet another century stand Saturday to set up an overwhelming 90-run win in the second one-day international against New Zealand.

Sharma put their match-winning effort at Mount Maunganui down to "a great camaraderie" after the pair put on 154 for the first wicket at better than a run-a-ball.

The flying start laid the platform for India's 324 for four before Kuldeep Yadav weaved his magic with the ball to roll New Zealand for 234.

Such a clinical demolition, following the equally dominant eight-wicket win in the first match, left New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson frustrated.

"It's not so much the losing it's probably just the way we're losing," Williamson said.

"It's two games in a row now where we haven't had control at any stage which is the part that is most

frustrating."

Sharma (87) and Dhawan (66) were rarely troubled in their stay at the crease which Sharma described as "a great partnership".

It was their 14th century stand



PHOTO: AFP

India's Rohit Sharma smashes one on his way to scoring a match-winning 87 in the second ODI against New Zealand in Tauranga yesterday.

from 93 innings as openers together.

Only the now-retired Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly (21 century stands), Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden (16) and Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes (15) have produced more hundred-plus opening partnerships.

"We enjoy each other's company in the middle and we share a great camaraderie between us," Sharma said of their prolific run scoring.

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: 324 for 4 in 50 overs (Sharma 87, Dhawan 66, Kohli 43, Rayudu 47, Dhoni 48 not out; Boul 2-61, Ferguson 2-81)

NEW ZEALAND: 234 all out in 40.2 overs (Munro 31, Taylor 22, Latham 34, Nicholls 28, Bracewell 57; Kumar 2-42, Chahal 2-52, Yadav 4-45)

Result: India won by 90 runs and lead the 5-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma.

Greatest rivals square off

AFP, Melbourne

AO Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal will renew the "greatest rivalry" in modern tennis when they collide in a mouth-watering 107th Australian Open final on Sunday.

The top two players in the world have 31 Grand Slam titles between them and each can claim another slice of history with victory.

Djokovic, 31, will lift a record seventh Norman Brookes Trophy with a win while Nadal, 32, will become the first man in the Open Era to win all four Grand Slams twice if he adds to his 2009 Melbourne Park crown.

Nadal's 18th Grand Slam title would see him close the gap on Federer's 20 at the top of the all-time list and Djokovic's 15th would give him sole ownership of third place ahead of Pete Sampras.

"These are the kind of matches that you live for: finals of Slams, playing the greatest rivals at their best," said Djokovic after dismantling Lucas Pouille 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 in a lopsided 83 minutes in Friday's semi-final.

"What more can you ask for? This is where you want to be."

It will be the 53rd meeting two giants of the games and their eighth in the final of a Grand Slam.

Djokovic is a whisker ahead with 27 victories to Nadal's 25. But the Spaniard has the edge in Grand Slam finals 4-3 and has won the last three.

In all Grand Slam meetings, Nadal has a clear advantage with a 9-5 win-loss record.

No two men have met more often in the Open Era, and no pair have pushed one another harder or further.

Their only previous final in Australia, in 2012, developed into a record-breaking 5hr 53min slugfest.

It stands as the longest final in Grand Slam history -- some say the greatest -- and it left the pair barely able to

HEAD-TO-HEAD



Djokovic leads 27-25

FAST FACTS

Djokovic: Age - 30; World ranking - 1; Prize money - \$125,847,879; Career titles - 72; Grand Slam titles - 14; Australian Open best - Champion (2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016)

Nadal: Age - 32; World ranking - 2; Prize money - \$103,251,975; Career titles - 80; Grand Slam titles - 17; Australian Open best - Champion (2009)

stand at the trophy ceremony after an exhausted Djokovic staggered over the line 7-5 in the final set.

"Nadal has historically throughout my life and career been the greatest rival that I ever played against, on all the surfaces," Djokovic said.

"I had some disappointing moments where I lost to him. I think I've lost to him nine times so far in the Grand Slams. I lost some tough matches. I won also some great matches."

"Those kind of encounters have also made me the player I am today."

Nadal said his final preparation would focus on his own game, which so far in Australia has been untouchable.

"I just have to think my way. I have to keep doing the things that I am doing," he said after swatting aside Stefanos Tsitsipas, one of the game's brightest prospects, 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 in 106 minutes of destruction in the last four on Thursday.

"That's my feeling, just keep playing the way that I am playing and, let's see, expect to have one of those special days."

SHORT CORNER



Paudel makes ODI history

Nepal batsman Rohit Paudel hit 55 off 58 balls against UAE, becoming, at 16 years, 146 days old, the youngest male player in history to make an international half-century.

The previous youngest was none other than Sachin Tendulkar, who made 59 in a Test against Pakistan aged 16 years and 213 days, while in ODIs the mark was set by Shahid Afridi, who smashed a 37-ball century, also a record at the time, aged 16 years and 217 days in his maiden international innings against Sri Lanka.

Paudel is however some way off the overall record for all international cricket, with South Africa's Jofra Archer having struck Test and ODI half-centuries as a 14-year-old.

Sristy hammers hapless Mizanur

Three of yesterday's Prime Bank Young Tigers National School Cricket Tournament fixtures were keenly contested affairs but the fourth was an exception as Sristy Academic School won by a whopping 168 runs against Shahid Mizanur Rahman High School in Tangail.

In response to the 207-run target set by Sristy Academic, Mizanur Rahman were bundled out for only 38 runs, of which 21 were extras.

In the other three matches, Edward Institute won by 48 runs against Police Line High School in Mymensingh, while Church of God High School defeated Border Guard Public School by 18 runs and

Kulna Zilla School came out on top against their opposition -- Kulna News Print Mills High School -- winning by five wickets.

--SPORTS

REPORTER

Rajshahi aid former coach

Rajshahi Kings provided former cricketer and coach Amiruzzaman Babu, who is suffering from a life threatening kidney disease, with a two lakh taka cheque ahead of their BPL encounter with Chittagong Vikings yesterday.

A media release stated that the franchise's management decided to extend a helping hand after learning about Amiruzzaman's deteriorating condition. The cheque was handed over to Shafikul Islam, a family friend to Amiruzzaman.

"Amiruzzaman was one of the coaches who inspired numerous youngsters to become cricketers. The Rajshahi Kings family decided to help him in his critical time," Rajshahi CEO Tahmeed Azizul Huq said.

--SPORTS REPORTER

Sanchez haunts Arsenal

Alexis Sanchez came back to haunt Arsenal as the Chilean opened the scoring in Manchester United's 3-1 FA Cup fourth-round win on Friday to maintain Ole Gunnar Solskjær's 100 percent record as caretaker manager.

United's winning run under the Norwegian is now eight games in all competitions and his decision to make five changes was vindicated as both Sanchez and the returning Romelu Lukaku had a huge impact.

Lukaku set up both Sanchez's opener and Jesse Lingard's second for the visitors in a two-minute spell just after the half-hour mark.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang reduced Arsenal's arrears just before half-time and the Gunners had plenty of chances to force a replay, but were denied by Sergio Romero as the rested David de Gea was not missed.

Eight minutes from time, United sealed a place in the last 16 when substitute Anthony Martial tucked home the rebound after Petr Cech could only parry Paul Pogba's initial effort.

--AFP



Bangladesh U-19 captain Akbar Ali (L) and his England counterpart Jamie Smith hold the T20 trophy in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bangladesh Under-19 team will begin preparations for the 2020 ICC Under-19 World Cup in South Africa with a home series against the England Under-19 team, which gets underway today through a lone T20 at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar.

The selectors have banked on a fresh set of players, led by Akbar Ali, for the series which will also feature a three-match youth ODI series followed by a two-match youth Test series against the visitors.

Regular captain Towhid Hridoy and pacer Shoriful Islam were not included in the side as the two cricketers are busy participating in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League, however, the two are expected to join the young Tigers for the four-day matches.

PHOTO: AFP

U-19s begin WC preps

SPORTS REPORTER

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PHOTO: AFP

U-19s begin