City



Big three march on

AFP, London



Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal eased into the Wimbledon quarterfinals on Monday as the sport's Grand Slam heavyweights

continued to deliver blow after blow to their wilting lightweight rivals.

Federer became the oldest man to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal in 28 years when he booked his place in the last-eight for the 17th time.

The eight-time champion breezed past Italy's Matteo Berrettini 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in just 74 minutes to make sure of a spot in his 55th quarterfinal at the Slams.

It was also his 99th win at the All England Club.

At 37, he is the oldest man to reach the last eight at the majors since 39-year-old Jimmy Connors at the 1991 US Open.

Federer, who hit 24 winners and just five unforced errors, will face Japan's Kei Nishikori for a place in the semifinals.

Defending champion and world number one Djokovic reached his 11th Wimbledon quarterfinal and 45th at the majors with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win over France's Ugo Humbert.

Third seed Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 champion, swept to an easy 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 win over outclassed Joao Sousa of Portugal to book his place in a seventh quarterfinal at the All England Club.

Between them, the 'Big Three' faced just one break point on Monday and dropped

a combined 19 games.

"I'm really getting into a good groove now, today I was able to read his serve, get the returns back in play and hit well from the baseline," said Federer who could face Nadal in a blockbuster semifinal.

"I'm still getting used to the conditions also but on the performance it was a really good match for me."

Japanese eighth seed Nishikori defeated Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the last eight for the

second successive year. The 29-year-old trails Federer 3-7 in career meetings although he won their most recent clash at the ATP Finals in

London at the end of last season. Four-time champion and top seed Djokovic will face Belgium's David Goffin for a place in the semi-finals.

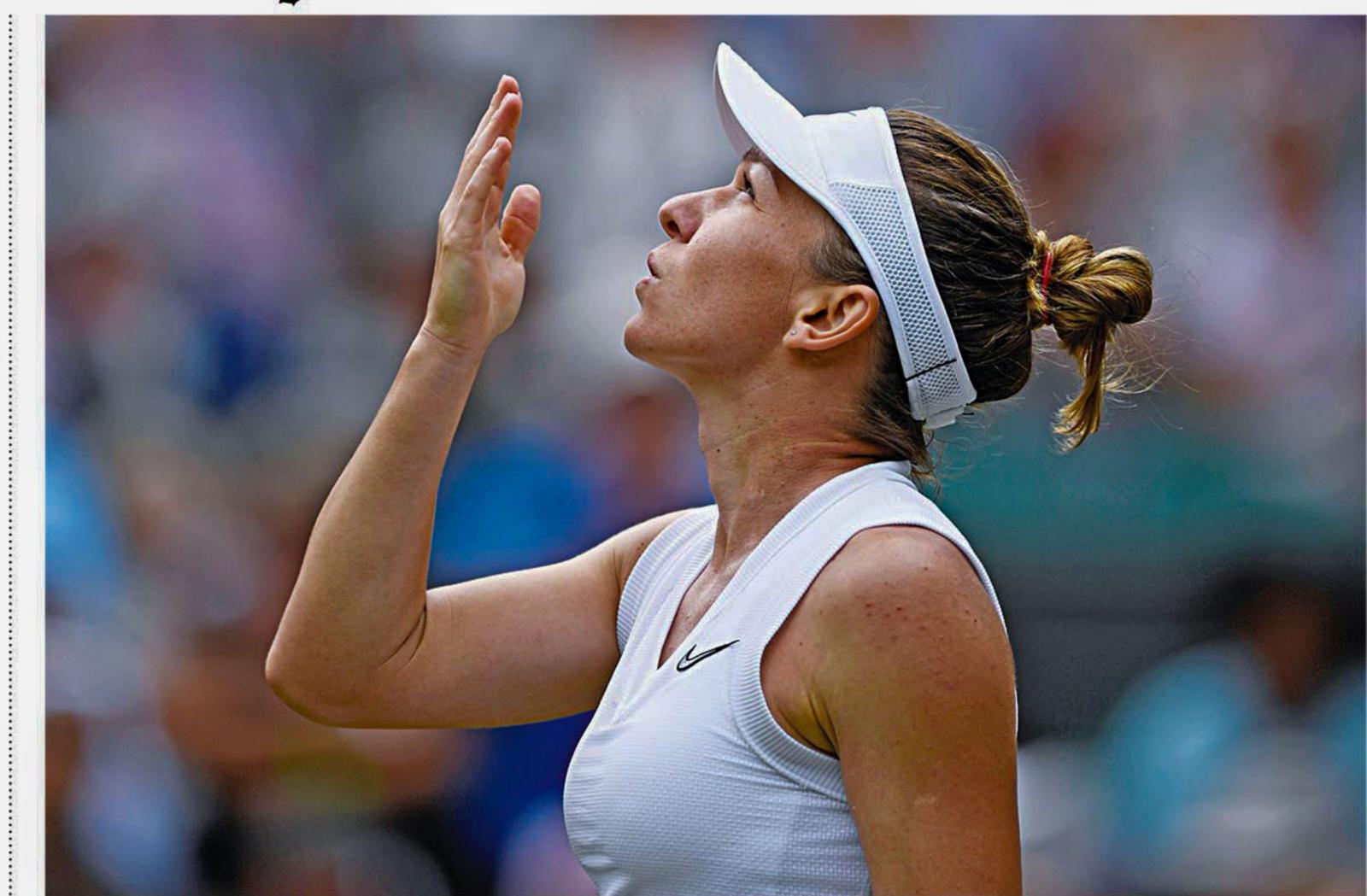
Djokovic, 32, has a 5-1 career record over 21st seed Goffin who will be playing in his first Wimbledon quarterfinal.

Humbert, the world number 66, had never played a match on grass before this season and was defeated in just one hour and 42 minutes.

"My plan always is to reach the final stages at Grand Slams," said Djokovic who converted five of nine break points on Monday.

"Wimbledon has been a special tournament that has motivated me throughout my life."

Nadal next plays Sam Querrey, against whom he holds a 4-1 record.



Romania's Simona Halep blows a kiss after beating China's Zhang Shuai in the quarterfinals of the Wimbledon at the All England Lawn Tennis Club yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Aurier gets too pumped up

REUTERS, Cairo

Ivory Coast captain Serge Aurier managed to injure himself again at the Africa Cup of Nations without playing -- hurting his right hand while banging the table to encourage his team mates. Aurier, still recovering

from an ankle injury, sat out Monday's 1-0 win over Mali in the last 16 but left the stadium with his hand in a splint.

"I hit the table," he told reporters on Tuesday, detailing a fist-pumping and table-thumping halftime pep talk that while playing a role in the Ivorians' winning the match hurt the Tottenham Hotspur defender.

When you are at home and things are going wrong, our parents shouted at us. It was the same thing. We said a few truths to each other. Sometimes it feels good and I think the group needed it," Aurier said.

Agent seeks quick fix for Pogba

AFP, London

Paul Pogba's agent Mino Raiola hopes that a breakthrough in negotiations that benefits "all parties" will soon be made regarding the Manchester United midfielder's future. The French World Cup

winner has stated his desire for a "new challenge", whilst Raiola said in an interview at the weekend that "everyone knows the willingness of Paul to move on".

Pogba has travelled with the rest of the United squad for the start of their pre-season tour to Australia despite initial claims he could boycott the trip in order to try and force through a move.

"The player has done nothing wrong. He has been respectful and professional in every way," Raiola told UK radio station talkSPORT.

WHAT TO WATCH

GTV, BTV & MAASRANGA ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP FIRST SEMIFINAL INDIA V NEW ZEALAND LIVE FROM 3:30PM

DAY'S EVENTS

BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE CTG ABAHANI V SAIF SC TIME: 4:00PM SHEIKH JAMAL V MOHAMMEDAN TIME: 7:00PM VENUE: BANGABANDHU NATIONAL STADIUM, DHAKA

Ruman leaves for Tokyo

SPORTS REPORTER



Country's best archer Ruman Sana left for Japan in the early hours of today to take part in the Tokyo 2020 Test Event, an experimental archery tournament for ahead of 2020 Tokyo Olympics, to be held from July 12 to 18.

Ruman, along with other archers who have qualified for Tokyo Olympics, will be competing at the newly-built Yumenoshima Park Archery Field, which will host the archery events in Olympics next year. Some 128 archers will be competing for five gold medals in this competition. Having gotten the opportunity to compete at the

Tokyo 2020 Test Event, the 24-year-old archer is ecstatic and believes this experience will help him during the Olympics, scheduled for July 24, 2020 to August 9, 2020.

"I will have a mental relief regarding the venue when I will go to compete in Olympics next year. I believe playing at the Olympic venue before the games will increase my mental strength. Besides, I will be acquainted with the weather in Tokyo through this competition," Ruman said on the eve of his departure yesterday, after having arrived from Germany earlier in the morning following the comlpetion of Archery World Cup Stage 4.

Ruman was eliminated from the third round after losing to gold medallist of World Archery Champions and bronze medallist of 2016 Rio Olympics -- Brady Ellison of United States.

The archer from Khulna, however, believes he would gradually improve his scores over the next one year under the guidance of German coach Martin Frederick.

Serena, Halep power into semis

REUTERS, London



Serena Williams clubbed her way into the Wimbledon semifinals, draining the last drop of fight from fellow

American Alison Riske before sealing a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win in a rip-roaring Centre Court contest on Tuesday.

For two sets, Riske absorbed every

last punishing blow from the seven times champion, while her own lightweight jab inflicted some early pain and then levelled the seesaw encounter at 1-1. Williams's blows, however,

became too frequent and too heavy in the final games, with the weaponised serve pushing the world number 55 Riske back on her heels, leaving the Williams forehand to work like an old slugger's righthook.

Having knocked out world number one Ash Barty in the last round and having spent over nine hours on court en route to the quarters -- the longest path to the last eight of anyone since 2011 --

Riske had shown a streak of pure Pittsburgh steel.

But Williams is tennis tungsten, and recovered superbly from a brief wobble in which she lost the second set and fell a break behind in the third. She eventually charged over the finish line after more than two hours

on court, bringing up match point when Riske netted a forehand and completing the job in typical fashion with her 19th ace of the match. "It was really satisfying; I wouldn't have won that match a couple of weeks ago, every match here has

really counted," said Williams whose time on court since the Australian Open in January has been limited by a niggling knee injury. "She has played so great and beaten so many great players here. I

was really pumped, it's for a place in the Wimbledon semis -- it's a long arduous road." Meanwhile, former world

number one Simona Halep reached her second Wimbledon semifinal on Tuesday after overcoming an early onslaught to deliver another

textbook example of matchplay tennis and dispatch China's unseeded Zhang Shuai 7-6(4), 6-1.

Just as she did in quelling the lively challenge of 15-year-old Coco Gauff on Monday, Halep initially struggled and looked in real danger when 4-1 down and facing more break points in the opening set. However, the Romanian dug in to see off the threat then played her usual percentage tennis as Zhang lost her way.

Seventh-seed Halep will now face either number eight seed Elina Svitolina or unseeded Karolina Muchova as she bids to reach the final for the first time having lost to Eugenie Bouchard in the last four in 2014.

"I fought hard in the first set, even if I knew I was 4-1 and she was hitting hard, I knew she would hit with a lot of power. I knew I would have to play aggressively and I did it great," she said.

"I have energy, I feel fresh and confident and I am perhaps playing my best tennis on grass."

Wimbledon gets first 12-12 final set tie-break

AFP, London

Wimbledon got its first 12-12 final set tie-break on Tuesday when Henri Kontinen and John Peers defeated Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury in a men's doubles match.

The eighth-seeded pair won 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 13-12 (7/2) in four hours and 29 minutes.

The third round match was suspended due to bad light on Monday and resumed Tuesday on the 1,750-seater Court 12 show court.

The All England Club introduced a final set tiebreak this year as a means of eradicating marathon matches.

In 2018, Kevin Anderson defeated John Isner in the men's semifinals in the second-longest match ever at the Slams, at six hours and 36 minutes.

The final set was only decided at 26-24.

PSG get tough with Neymar

AFP, Paris



French club Paris Saint-Germain said they would take "appropriate action" after Neymar failed to show up for pre-season training with the French champions.

Neymar, the world's most expensive player after moving to PSG for 222 million euros (\$252 million) two years ago, had watched his country win the Copa America in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday night.

But when PSG players including France World Cup-winning striker Kylian Mbappe reported back for training and pre-season medical checks in the French capital on Monday, Neymar was nowhere to be seen.

PSG said in a statement: "On Monday 8 July Neymar da Silva Santos Junior was due to return to pre-season activities with the Paris Saint-Germain senior squad. "Paris Saint-Germain notes that

Neymar Jr was not in attendance at the agreed time and place. This was without the club's prior authorisation.

"The club regrets this situation and will therefore take appropriate action."

Brazilian media quoted Neymar's father as saying that PSG "were aware" the striker would be unable to return to the club for another week.

"The reason was known and planned for a year as part of his activities for the Neymar Institute (charity foundation)," said Neymar Senior.

He added: "We couldn't postpone them and he will return (to PSG) on July 15.

"It's as simple as that, no drama.

Neymar, seen here watching the Copa America final with his son at Maracana Stadium on Monday, could be in trouble for missing out on preseason training with his club Paris Saint-Germain. PHOTO: AFP

PSG are aware and take part in the Institute's activities."

Neymar is undergoing treatment on the torn ankle ligaments that ruled him out of the Copa America.

His absence is likely to fuel rumours that he could make a surprise move back to Barcelona, the club he left to join PSG, this summer.

French media noted that what was striking was PSG's lack of tolerance of Neymar's behaviour.

After they club said it would take action, PSG's newly installed Brazilian sporting director Leonardo told Le Parisien newspaper that "Neymar can leave PSG if there is an offer that suits everybody." Sports daily L'Equipe's headline

was: "With Leo (Leonardo), there's no longer any joking around." Barcelona, currently embroiled in

efforts to sign Antoine Griezmann, have yet to publicly express an interest in Neymar.

Barca's vice-president Jordi Cardoner said last week: "What is correct, at the current time, what I have read, what I have heard, which seems exact, is that Neymar wants to come back to Barcelona."

Spanish sports newspaper Diario Sport claims a five-year contract has been agreed with Neymar agreeing to a cut in salary from around 36 million euros a year at PSG to the 24 million euros he received at Barca in 2017.

Pubali Bank's **Credit Rating**

Ratings 2017 2018 **Long Term** AA+ AA **Short Term** ST-1 ST-1 Based on Audited 31 Dec 2017 31 Dec 2018 Financial Statements

RATING DESCRIPTION

	LONG TERM	AA+ (DOUBLE A PLUS)	Very strong capacity for timely servicing of financial obligations in Long Term .
	SHORT TERM	ST-1	Strongest capacity for timely payment of financial obligations in Short Term.

Rated by National Credit Ratings Ltd. (NCR) on 26 June 2019 & valid till 25 June 2020



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