Rafael Nadal swatted back all suggestions that his age is starting to show with a dominating win over fifth seed Diego Schwartzman to reach the French Open last eight for the first time since the 2016 Roland Garros event in Paris on Monday, when the 33-year-old was clinging to his career. Nadal made light work of Schwartzman, who won his first grand slam quarter-final two years ago, on a sweltering night in Melbourne. Nadal swept Schwartzman aside with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 scoreline to reach his 11th semi-final at Roland Garros. Nadal will play six-time champion Roger Federer in the semi-finals on Wednesday.

Nadal has won two of the last three grand slam titles, and is looking to complete the career Grand Slam with a Roland Garros triumph.

The 26-year-old world number one and seven-times French Open champion has made an outstanding start to his season, securing the Indian Wells and Miami Open titles before adding the Monte Carlo Masters last week. Nadal is now only one step away from a record-extending 12th major title.

The victory was the 100th in a Roland Garros tournament for Nadal, who has become synonymous with the French clay courts and said there was no reason why he could not reach the same heights again next year.

"I don't feel the pressure now anymore, I think I have one more semi-final to win here, so I don't feel the pressure," Nadal said.

"I think it's a great match. I have had two more days until I will play the semi-finals, and I'm not tired. And then we will see what is going to happen instead of one if I will play the final in every final in every grand slam," Nadal added.

"Now I need to rest because my generation still has a Grand Slam to win, but contrary to what people say this is not the last round before the next one," Nadal said.

McEnroe says Murray will keep fighting to return

Former world number one Andy Murray has said he hopes to continue playing professional tennis despite being ruled out of the French Open and Wimbledon this year by hip surgery.

"I'm not even saying he won't be (as good as he was)," McEnroe said.

"But I will be more confident because I know what I have. And I have two more days until I will play the semi-final. So I will stay chilled. I will enjoy it today, the victory because it's a great match.

"And I have two more days until I will play the semi-finals, and I'm not tired. And then we will see what is going to happen instead of one if I will play the final in every final in every grand slam," Nadal added.

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FOCUS

Egypt and Nigeria continue to splutter in warm-ups

BELGIUM ease past Egypt 3-0 to extend latter’s winless streak since qualifying for WC

EGT and Nigeria continued their recent poor form as World Cup warm-up games on Wednesday saw the two sides fail to impress. The north African side’s opponents were the lone striker.

Belgium dominated. The Chelsea forward Eden Hazard (centre) vies for the ball with Egyptian players during the international friendly at the King Baudouin Stadium, in Brussels, on Wednesday.

Russia..Czech Republic..England..

PHYSICAL POWER

Worrying for the Panamanians, who faced Belgium, England and Tunisia in Group G. If their first World Cup clash against Egypt on Wednesday catches fire, Belgium’s momentum is unlikely to be stunted during the opening half as the Czechs dominated.

The Nigerians stepped up the pace in the second half — notably attempted by Messi to cancel a match in Israel, including Palestinian calls to burn replica shirts of Lionel Messi if he played. But Palestinian football officials praised World Cup-bound Argentina for not taking part in the Israel game.

SAO PAULO..(AFP) — Amazon and the Premier League have agreed to screen Premier League matches on Amazon Prime, which includes the US company’s new Prime Video service.

Both teams’ arrival was carried fire by Russia’s national rolling news channel.

A

real star Mount Ozi will miss Germany’s final warm-up match today with a knee injury, but the attacking midfielder’s participation in the World Cup is still in danger, according to the German Football Association (DFB).

The 23-man squad for the World Cup made no sense, former player... But he didn’t play — you have to have a fantasy to believe that.

Injured Ozil to miss Germany’s final World Cup warm-up

Sane’s Germany smub makes no sense, says Ballack

Germany manager Norbert Lechner’s decision to stick with Julian Brandt for Germany’s 25-man squad for the World Cup has been widely criticized.

The winner will be in pole position to pick Julian Brandt for Germany’s 23-man squad for the World Cup, with bigger expectations, after the reigning European Championship and German Cup winner... But he didn’t play — you have to have a fantasy to believe that.

Arrivals

Spain, Panama arrive in Russia

Former World Cup winners Spain and debut into holders Panama are among the first nation to arrive in Russia. The teams have traveled to the country to finalise details ahead of next month's World Cup.

The pair and Saudi Arabia arrived in Moscow on a dramatic last day of qualifying. The winner will be in pole position to pick Julian Brandt for Germany’s 23-man squad for the World Cup, with bigger expectations, after the reigning European Championship and German Cup winner.

Amazon.com to screen Premier League for first time

Amazon.com has won the rights to broadcast English Premier League games for 2019-20, a season that will include the first World Cup since 2010 and the Premier League’s first ever broadcast in the United States.

But Palestinian football officials praised World Cup-bound Argentina for not taking part in the Israel game.

Belgium’s forward Eden Hazard (centre) vies for the ball with Egyptian players during the international friendly at the King Baudouin Stadium, in Brussels, on Wednesday. AFP

Teams

Numbers

Spanish coach Julen Lopetegui, Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales and hosts Serbia's manager Darko Bodiroga and Serbia arrive in Russia on Wednesday.

Russia..Czech Republic..England..
Russia has spent at least $4bn either building or refurbishing 12 arenas in 11 cities.
**Focus**

**Bend it like Einstein: Science and the World Cup**

"In other words, it is expected that a set-piece situation such as a free kick or corner kick, or an intermediate-range strong shot, may be effective."--FIFA

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**Football**

Just beyond every World Cup, there seems to be grappling about ball, which Adidas has designed for the four-year FIFA tournament. The new ball, called Telstar 18, has been criticized by some footballers in Europe and Asia for its "elastico" dribble that makes a player believe the ball is going one way when it is going another, and "beating" the goalkeeper. But almost half of goals scored in the 2018 World Cup were from set-piece situations, which is "a good sign," said researcher Todd Berube.

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**What sort of welcome will visitors get in Russia?**

Since the start of the 2018 World Cup in Russia, there have been concerns about the welcome tourists will receive. The Russian government has implemented strict security measures, and there have been reports of discrimination against foreign visitors. This has led to concerns about the safety and hospitality of tourists in Russia. However, recent reports suggest that the welcome for tourists has improved, with many visitors reporting positive experiences.

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**Salah's Iraqi lookalike dreams of glory**

"I want to be a footballer like Salah," said 18-year-old Ahmed Alwan, who plays for the local Al-Zawraa club in Baghdad. Alwan has become a sensation in Iraq, with his striking resemblance to Liverpool's Mohamed Salah.

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**Moscow**

Supporters of the other 29 visitors—distinctive personalities of the guests. Cultural for the hosts and their range from the logistical to the human physique.

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**Gulf Times**

Moscow’s objective, organising departments—Liberal and lady students, talking to show an "unfettered, unbiased" face of the country.

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**Sportlight**

"The airports in six cities are ungetable, colourful Russia."

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**Image**

Moscow will be Russian nationals. So-called "14 hospitals have been redone in anger."

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**What is the significance of the rainbow flag at the World Cup?**

The rainbow flag, the symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights, has been on display at the World Cup in Russia, with fans and supporters using it to show solidarity and support for the LGBTQ community. The flag has been controversial, with some countries and fans expressing opposition. However, it has also been a symbol of hope and unity, with many fans and supporters using it to raise awareness of LGBTQ rights.

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**The influence of the rainbow flag at the World Cup**

Since its introduction at the 2018 World Cup, the rainbow flag has been a symbol of support for the LGBTQ community. The flag has been displayed at stadiums, in marches, and in other forms of public expression. It has been a powerful symbol of solidarity and support, and has helped to raise awareness of LGBTQ rights.

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**Moscow run by Russia NGOs**

Supporters Europe (FSE) group has been condemned. One day before the final, some fans were seen with the rainbow flag, which in the past has been controversial. However, it remains a powerful symbol of solidarity and support for the LGBTQ community.
Cavanders face an uphill task as no team has ever recovered from a 3-0 deficit to win an NBA playoff series.

Warriors to brink of crown

Kevin Durant (right) of the Golden State Warriors attempts a jumper over Jeff Green of the Cleveland Cavaliers during the Game Three of the 2018 NBA Finals in Cleveland, Ohio, on Wednesday night. (AP Photo)
**SPOTLIGHT**

From fat to fit on road to the All Blacks for prop Tu’ikinuake

**Focus**

Wallabies bulk up for Six Nations champs Ireland

**RUGBY**

Astonishing rise of first black Springbok captain

Since the age of eight, Kolisi had a firm understanding of the game thanks to his father Fezakele, who played centre for the Sharks for six years. He was a big inspiration for young Kolisi and played a crucial role in helping him develop his skills.

Kolisi's love for rugby began at a young age. He grew up in a township in South Africa, where rugby was a popular sport. His father, Fezakele, played centre for the Sharks, and he was a big inspiration for young Kolisi.

Kolisi started playing rugby at a young age and quickly showed promise. He was noticed by a talent scout for the Sharks, who approached him. "That, for me, was the moment that catapulted Kolisi's career," said a source.

The coach recalls the moment vividly. "I saw something special in him. He was a natural athlete and had a feel for the game."

Kolisi's career took off when he was named captain of the Sharks. "Under his leadership, the Sharks became a potent force in South Africa," said a former team-mate.

Kolisi's team went on to win a domestic competition, and he was named captain of the South African national team.

Kolisi's rise to the top of rugby was not without its challenges. He faced discrimination and racism throughout his career, but he never let it get in the way of his passion for the sport.

"I worked hard to prove that I was good enough to play at the highest level," said Kolisi. "I never gave up, and I never let anyone tell me I couldn't do it."
FORMULA 1

Hamilton returns to happy hunting ground

We can see that we are in a stronger position in both championships than we were last year, and the battle is more fierce with ourselves, Ferrari and Red Bull in contention every weekend.

ALAPHILIPPE PIPS MARTIN AT CRITERIUM SUMMIT

Alaphilippe pips Martin at Criterium summit as he crosses the finish line to win the fourth stage of the 78th edition of the Critérium du Dauphiné cycling race between Chassy-sur-Ain and Lure-sonceux yesterday (AFP)

FORMULA 1

Hamilton returns to happy hunting ground

Lewis Hamilton returns to action for the fourth time this season on Sunday with the prospect of reaching the championship summit

The defending four-time champion heads to France this weekend looking to extend his lead over nearest rival Sebastian Vettel by 14 points after six races, claiming his maiden Formula One win at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in 2008. If he has already added to his record 64 Grand Prix triumphs, he has yet to land the top step of the podium at the Circuit desyah-iles.

After the Italian Grand Prix two weeks ago, Hamilton was left to rue in the French capital after finishing third

It was the first time since 2012 that vettel had lost out to Hamilton, who now leads the battle for pole, on the first lap and went on to win in Canada. In fact, the German was last year's winner, which has been a common occurrence lately.

In the early stages of the race, Hamilton had the upper hand, but Vettel started to pull away and eventually took the lead.

It was another lesson in how to beat the British driver, who had won the British Grand Prix at Silverstone last year.

With the race in the bag, Vettel went on to finish second, with Lewis Hamilton in third place.

Formula 1 stars had to endure a grueling 12.7km climb at an average gradient of 7 percent, which may suit a climber such as Alaphilippe, who rides for all classification. Martin, Bardet and Thomas finished 11sec and 1min 49sec.

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Wolff warned “past performance is not necessarily a good indicator of future success”

Wolff added: “past performance is not necessarily a good indicator of future success.”

But Vettel was able to keep his cool and take the win, showing just how much he has learned since his debut in 2007.

In the end, it was a three-way battle for the win

The race was dominated by Mercedes, with Lewis Hamilton finished third, Vettel second and Sebastian Vettel third.

The trio limited the opponents to 19 points, with Mercedes leading the way.

It was a great day for the German team, which has now won three of the six races so far this season.

The team’s struggles with the new cars have been well documented, and it was a relief for Mercedes to get back to winning ways.

But the team is still searching for the perfect balance and the perfect car for Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg.

Hamilton says the team is not giving up on the championship just yet

“Not only today we have to push to the limit, but tomorrow we have to be there to fight for the win,” he added.

The next race is the French Grand Prix, which takes place on 25 June.

“I feel great and knew I had a chance to win just looking at the race profi le before the start,” said the Mercedes driver.

This was the fi rst stage of the race to be won by a Mercedes, with Lewis Hamilton finishing second.

The team’s star driver put in a solid performance to keep the Mercedes in the hunt for the championship.

It was a comfortable win for Hamilton, who has now won 10 races this season.

The team has won 17 races since the start of the 2014 season, and Lewis Hamilton is the current world champion.

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**SPORT**

**Khan spins Afghans to T20 sweep over Bangladesh**

*b* Gulf Times

S

esh Khan comprised a patient, irresistible knock that enjoyed a full swing of the bat on the day. The 28-year-old Afghani opener gathered his strength and adjusted things on the way to score an unbeaten 99 in the second T20 International against Bangladesh on Friday.

Mahmudullah Riyad, who made 45, put India on June 14 in Bangalore, triumphed stan, who await their T est debut against New Zealand.

To his credit, Khan compiled a steady 99 in 67 balls, which included 10 boundaries. It was his highest score in T20Is, which came in 65 balls. He earlier made 45. He was declared not out.

Khan’s maiden T20 knock gave them a winning total.

**BOTTOMLINE**

**FINDICULAR**

**What’s gravely huh?**

**SPORT**

**Dowrich powers Windies to 350 for 7**

*b* Gulf Times

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he reached his second T est half-century on Friday, June 8, 2018, in Port of Spain.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Sri Lanka plans tougher laws**

*b* Gulf Times

W

hat Kohli won is be

**HONOUR**

**Kohli named Indian cricketer of the year for the fifth time**

*b* Gulf Times

A

ny Tendulkar, one of Indian cricket’s greatest ever, was named in as a 15-member squad for two more day matches in Sri Lanka.

**FOCUS**

**Tendulkar junior picked for India Under-19 team**

*b* Gulf Times

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ngland’s Rhodes named new Bangladesh coach

*b* Gulf Times

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ngland’s Rhodes named new Bangladesh coach.