

25 IAAF has been left 'frustrated' as Russian athletes ban upheld

26 Golovkin brutally knocks out Rolls, calls for third Canelo fight

27 Germany and Spain open World Cup with tense wins as Norway cruise



Nadal wins historic 12th French Open

Nadal sweeps 18th Grand Slam title, just two behind Federer's all-time record of 20 majors



PARIS: Winner Spain's Rafael Nadal (2nd R), second-placed Austria's Dominic Thiem (2nd L) pose with their trophies and with President of the French Tennis Federation (FFT) Bernard Giudicelli (L) and Australia's tennis player Rod Laver (R) at the end of the men's singles final match against Austria's Dominic Thiem on day fifteen of The Roland Garros 2019 French Open tennis tournament in Paris yesterday. —AFP

PARIS: Rafael Nadal swept to an historic 12th Roland Garros title and 18th Grand Slam crown yesterday with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Austria's Dominic Thiem. The 33-year-old Spaniard becomes the first player, man or woman, to win the same Slam 12 times after seeing off a brave challenge from a weary Thiem in a repeat of the 2018 final.

Nadal is now just two behind Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 majors and three ahead of Novak Djokovic who was knocked out by Thiem in the semi-finals. The world number two also took his Paris

record to an astonishing 93 wins and just two losses having previously won the title in 2005-2008, 2010-2014, 2017 and 2018.

"I want to say congratulations to Dominic. I feel sorry as he deserves to win it as well," said Nadal. "But he has every chance in the future. He has unbelievable talent for the sport and I want to encourage him for the future."

"It's a dream to win again, an incredible moment. When I first played here in 2005 I never thought I would be still playing here in 2019. "It's very special for me." Sunday's triumph confirmed the 'Big Three' strangle-

hold on the Grand Slams having shared the last 10 between them.

It also gave Nadal an 82nd career title and 950th match win. "It's very tough. I gave everything these last two weeks," said Thiem, who had seven fewer winners and seven more unforced errors in the final.

"Rafa, well done. You are an amazing champion and a legend in our sport. "I am happy that you are playing. To win 12 times, it's unreal." "I will try again, for sure."

In a 53-minute first set of brutal hitting and raw physicality, it was Thiem who broke first for a 3-2 lead. But the 25-year-

old's joy was short-lived as Nadal retrieved the break in the sixth game before racing away with the next three games to pocket the opener. Thiem, who had beaten his opponent four times on clay in his career, failed to claim a single point off Nadal's first five service games of the second set.

However, the dogged Austrian pushed and pushed, forced Nadal into three rushed groundstrokes and, from nowhere, broke to take the second set. It was the first set he had managed to take off Nadal at Roland Garros after three previous defeats.

Nadal was riled by the insult. He swept

the first 10 points of the third set, carving out a double break for 3-0 before sweeping to a third break for the set. Thiem, bidding to become just Austria's second Grand Slam champion after Thomas Muster won in Paris in 1995, had played four successive days to reach yesterday's final and the toll was slowly telling. He wasted break points in the first and third games of the fourth set and Nadal pounced to stretch to 3-0. That was soon 5-1 and the relentless barrage continued with Nadal taking the title on a second match point when Thiem fired a return long. —AFP

India secure 36-run win against Australia

LONDON: India's top order fired in unison and their bowlers produced a tidy display to beat reigning world champions Australia by 36 runs in a thrilling World Cup match at the Oval yesterday.

Shikhar Dhawan (117) smashed his 17th ODI century and forged significant partnerships with fellow opener Rohit Sharma (57) and skipper Virat Kohli (82) to power India to a commanding 352-5.

Several frontline Australia batsmen got good starts but none could bat deep enough to see them home as they were all out for 316 in exactly 50 overs.

Steve Smith (69), David Warner (56) and Alex Carey (55 not out) scored the bulk of the runs for Australia, who tasted their first defeat after wins against Afghanistan and West Indies earlier in the tournament.

India's new ball pair of Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3-50) and Jasprit Bumrah (3-61) shared six wickets between them while spinner Yuzvendra Chahal claimed 2-62. — Reuters



LONDON: Australia's Mitchell Starc (L) is run out by India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar during the 2019 Cricket World Cup group stage match between India and Australia at The Oval in London yesterday. — AFP

England win in women's WCup opener

NICE: Nikita Parris blasted home a penalty awarded after a VAR review to set England on their way to a 2-1 win over old rivals Scotland in their opening match at the women's World Cup in Nice yesterday.

Parris scored from the spot in the 14th minute and Ellen White added another goal for Phil Neville's side five minutes before half-time on the Cote d'Azur. A shaken Scotland fought back in the second half, and Claire Emslie reduced the arrears with 11 minutes to go, but they could not find an equaliser.

The Lionesses will still feel they were worthy winners. Among the favourites to win this World Cup, they are now well set up to progress from Group D before facing Argentina in Le Havre on Friday and then returning here to Nice to tackle former winners Japan on June 19. Neville—who resembled men's manager Gareth Southgate, sporting a waistcoat on the touchline—had warned that this would be his team's toughest fixture in the group stage. However, at the Nice stadium where England's men lost to Iceland at Euro 2016 and which registered a crowd of just 13,188 for the occasion, Neville's team ultimately got the job done in the first half against a Scottish side playing their first ever match at the World Cup. —AFP