

SPORTS  
sports

# Marathon man Isner backs Wimbledon rule-change

AFP | London

John Isner has backed the change to Wimbledon's rules which will see the final set decided by a tie-break when the game score reached 12-12.

The 33-year-old American was involved in the longest match in professional tennis history when he eventually overcame Nicolas Mahut 70-68 in the final set of an 11-hour clash during the 2010 Championships.

"I've been on record saying 12-all is good and my views haven't changed," Isner, also involved in the second-longest Grand Slam match in this year's Wimbledon semi-final when he lost the deciding set 26-24 to Kevin Anderson, told BBC Radio Five's Sportsworld programme, "Wimbledon this year was definitely the impetus for it with the schedule messing up the men's semis and women's final. "It is bucking tradition but I think a lot of people believe that is not a bad thing."

Traditionally, singles matches in Grand Slam tennis tournaments -- the best of five sets for



John Isner of US returns the ball to Latvia's Ernests Gulbis during their semi-final at the ATP Stockholm Open

men, three for women -- were won when a player had six games to their credit but also led their opponent by at least two clear games -- 6-4 or 8-6 for example.

In 1969, the then 41-year-old Pancho Gonzales beat Charlie Pasarell 22-24, 1-6, 16-14, 6-3, 11-9 in a singles match at Wimbledon.

Tie-breaks were first introduced at Wimbledon in the early 1970s and in 1979 officials settled on the current system where they would decide a set once it had reached six games all, except in the final set, which would still be played to advantage -- winning by two clear games.

The US Open already has a

fifth set tie-breaker in place for singles matches and Isner believes Wimbledon's move to amend its rules may encourage the Australian and French Opens -- tennis's other Grand Slam events -- to follow suit.

"Maybe Wimbledon acting like this could drive them to do it as well," he said. "They could call it the Isner rule."

## Shopping malls install athletes' figures

TDT | Manama

Enmaa in Riffa and Moda Mall of Sheraton Hotel in Manama has paid tribute to sports heroes by installing their figures on display at their premises.

The figures, which include horse saddle to refer to Royal endurance team captain Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad's winning the 2015 Windsor Horse Ride, in addition to a wheelchair athlete figure that represent 2016 Paralympic Games gold medalist Fatma Safar, were prepared by BOC to celebrate the achievements of Bahrain's athletes in different sports over the past years.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports assistant secretary general and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) secretary general Abdulrahman Askar thanked the malls for their gesture.

"The Bahrain Olympic Com-

mittee has been keen to support youth and sports, and to promote the achievements of its athletic heroes to further boost the Kingdom of Bahrain reputation on the world sports map," said Askar.

"Therefore, we decided to create these figures as a sign of appreciation for the efforts and services of the Bahrain players in their respective sports, and put them in a number of leading shopping malls in different parts in Bahrain to acknowledge Citizens and expats alike on our sports champions".

Askar extended his gratitude and appreciation to the management of both malls for their cooperation in displaying these figures, which reflects their loyalty and keenness to establish positive partnership with various institutions of the society, especially in the field of youth and sports, contribute to sports movement and support the Bahraini athletes in different disciplines.

## Bassali Tigers deny Tornado

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Bassali Tigers defeated Tornado A by four runs in BCA Division C Match.

Tornado won the toss and elected to bowl first. Tigers opener Numair scored a brilliant 75 runs which helped his team to reach decent total of 150 at the end of 20 overs.

Tigers' Hamza contributed 23 runs while Vinu took 2 wickets for Tornado A.

Chasing the target Tornado started well with Gigin scoring 54 runs. Nithin scored 38 that helped them to get a steady start but Tigers' bowler's tidy overs pulled the game toward them. At the end of 20 overs Tornado managed to score 146 and Bassali Tigers won the match by 4 runs.

Score:

Bassali Tigers 150/6 in 20

overs (Numair 75, Hmaza 23, Vinu 2/21) beat Tornado A 146/3 in 20 overs (Gigin 54, Nithin 38, Athul 28) by 4 runs

Other Scores

Mudabar 151/8 (Faisal 50, Ehtisham 24, Zoab 3/23) beat Patrick York 117/9 (Nouman 22, Waqas 3/19) by 34 runs

New India Assurance Kerala XI 102/7 in 18 overs (Rajeev 33, Ratan 3/13) beat bnl Titans 100/8 (Jishad 33, Rajeev 2/14) by 3 wickets

Central Café 142/8 (Ganesh 31, Prashob 2/16) beat Falcon CC 126/10 (Baskar 24, Sachin 5/10) by 16 runs

G4S Legends 131/5 (Shaji 41, Vijesh 32, Riset 2/180) beat Pak Panthers 98/8 (Bilal 25, Vijeth 3/15, Sumesh 3/14) by 33 runs

Azeem CC 150/6 in 20 overs (Jamil 57, Zain 23, Waqas 2/24) beat Shahzad Zafar 134/9 (Asitha 41, Naees 3/23, Zeeshan

2/36) by 16 runs

ACL Red Mountain 140/7 (Farhan 48, Parvaz 25, Balaji 2/15) beat NDC Bahrain 104/10 (Siva 17, Naeem 2/9, Waqas 2/12) by 36 runs

BCA Division B Match

Srilankan Club 123/3 in 14.2 overs (Suren 43, Fahad 29, Suneer 3/15) beat Shifa Al Jazeera Tornado 119/8 (Suneer 23, SKasun 2/24) by 7 wickets.

National Guard 150/7 (Abbas 42, Riaz 2/16) beat Liaison Combine 93/10 (Farakh 19, Adnan 4/13) by 57 runs

Strikers 140/6 in 19 overs (Karan 36, Satya 30, Naresh 2/15) beat Indian Rising Star 139/9 (Arun 29, Karan 3/20, Joby 3/21) by 4 wickets

Young Challengers 144/5 in 19.1 overs (Saefer 36, Anli 23, Yousaf 2/21) beat Climax Zalmi 140/10 (Faisal 51, Sufyan 3/18, Zarshad 2/22) by 5 wickets

## Moscon wins Guangxi race

AFP | Shanghai, China

Italy's Gianni Moscon of Team Sky won the Tour of Guangxi yesterday after Dutchman Fabio Jakobsen triumphed in the sixth and final stage in a bunch sprint.

The 24-year-old Moscon, who was thrown out of the Tour de France in July after an altercation with a fellow racer, had been the favourite for victory in China.

Moscon topped the general classification standings in the final stop on the 2018 UCI World Tour with a time of 20hr 39min 56sec.

Second was Austria's Felix Grossschartner of Bora-Hansgrohe, nine seconds behind, and a further five seconds adrift in third was Russia's Sergei Chernetski of the Astana team.

## MMA fighter from USA signs with Brave CF

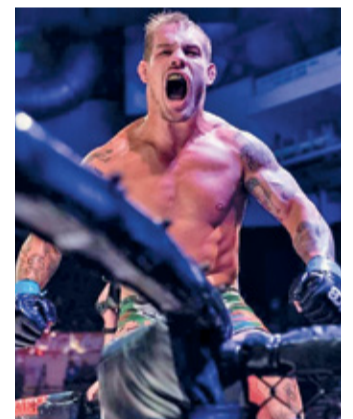
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Adam "Prime Time" Townsend had signed his contract with Brave Combat Federation. Having an undefeated amateur career of 8 wins, Townsend has a professional record of nineteen wins and five losses.

Ten out of his nineteen wins came by way of submissions and Adam had never lost a fight to knockout or submission in his career.

Townsend is expected to compete in the edition of Brave Combat Federation set to be hosted in South Africa.

Training at D-Evil MMA in USA, he will be joining the



Adam Townsend

rapidly expanding lightweight division of Brave Combat Federation.

## 60th edition of Brave News launched

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Brave Combat Federation has launched the 60th edition of Brave News.

Brave News is a weekly episodic show that features latest news and updates from Brave Combat Federation and about the mixed martial arts indus-

try. The show is hosted by Carlos Kremer, celebrity cage announcer and medallist at IBJJF World Championships.

Brave News is produced and developed from the Kingdom of Bahrain and is one among the longest running martial arts shows produced from Bahrain.

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## Home hope Khachanov wins Kremlin Cup

AFP | Moscow

Third seeded wildcard Karen Khachanov of Russia beat Frenchman Adrian Mannarino in straight sets yesterday to secure his second ATP title of the season at the Kremlin Cup in Moscow.

Khachanov became the first home player to lift the trophy since Mikhail Youzhny in 2009 while Mannarino was losing his sixth ATP final.

Khachanov, ranked 26th in the world, prevailed 6-2, 6-2, in 54 minutes to record his third win over the

30-year-old left-hander Mannarino in as many meetings.

"At first I'd like to congratulate Adrian with the final," Khachanov said at the award ceremony. "Sorry that it ended this way.

"When I was a kid and came to this arena to watch our top players, to ask them for autographs I always dreamt of winning this tournament. Now this day has finally come."

Khachanov was in command from the start breaking early for a 3-1 lead. Mannarino, ranked 49th, tried to level but Khachanov broke again to take the opening set in 24

minutes.

In the second set the Russian 22-year-old underlined his supremacy on the hard court of Moscow's Olympic indoor arena as he made inroads on his rival's service twice again to wrap up the victory and claim his third career title.

"I'm sorry that show wasn't the best one but he (Khachanov) was too good for me and I failed to find the right solutions on court today," Mannarino said.

"I had a great week here in Moscow and I hope to come back next year."