Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Abdul Razzaq has said he is ready to sign a letter

pledging his future to Pakistan and not the ICL,

as the ramifications of the PCB's policy on play-

ers with the private Indian league takes root.

Mohammad Yousuf has already claimed he has

'resigned' from the league and though Razzaq

has not taken that step yet, he said he was willing

the previous board administration and Pakistan

captain. He is one of the ICL players to have met

with current Pakistan captain Younis Khan over

national side, worried it is believed, about the

question of which players will come back and

unaware of the board's recent amnesty state- 2006.

Rain plays spoil sport

the last month to discuss a future with the ningplayers altogether.

Like Yousuf, Razzaq also had problems with

to leave the league and play for Pakistan.

leagues, we are ready to do it."

of both teams actually stood at

77 runs meaning the match

winner if they were 78 at the

time of stoppage and similarly

they would have been the

loser if they were just one run

short (76 for 2) then,"

entertained the crowds as the

left-hander smashed two

consecutive boundaries off

Mohammad Younus in the

second over and then in the

eighth over hit one boundary

followed by a huge six off

national spinner Abdur

four fine knocks by opener

Mehrab Hossain (33), Sri

Lankan batsmen Jeehan

Mobarak (20) and Chamara

Kapugedara (40 not out) and

was a battle between two

with four boundaries and a six

to help Dada Warriors score 65

for 5 in 10 overs but Waseem

Earlier in the first game, it

Saeed Anwar Jrhit 35-ball 45

Tushar Imran (33).

Pakistanis.

Brothers innings built on

But before that Tamim

explained Masum.

"Abahani could be the

FROM PAGE 17

was a tie.



Russia's world number one Dinara Safina plays backhand against her compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova at the Stuttgart WTA tournament semifinal yesterday.

World number three Djokvic is the reigning lead after a string of Djokovic errors.

back.

Federer on clay.

straight win on clay.

victory.

He was trailing by a set and a break when the then threw away his final service game with

Younus ordinary so far: Ramiz

Cricket

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Former captain Ramiz Raja Saturday said Younus Khan was not on form and failing to inspire a struggling Pakistan with Australia commanding an unassailable lead in their oneday series.

The current Pakistan captain has not been in the best of form, scoring just 46 runs in the first four matches of the series as Australia took a 3-1 lead ahead of the last match here on Sunday.

He scored 11 in Pakistan's hard-fought four-wicket win in the first match in Dubai.

Raja said a batsman captain must score to inspire his team's batting.

ment. Instead, he questioned why the board

continued to ask for a NOC (no-objection certifi-

cate) from the ICL. "This NOC the board wants has no authority, no value," he said. "The players

are ready to play for Pakistan so where is the

they ask him for any NOC? When a politician

changes party, does he take an NOC from his old

party? I want to play and am willing to sign a

and though the board is keen to bring back

players such as Razzaq and Yousuf, this adminis-

tration has been caught between public demand

for bringing them back and the hardline stance

adopted by the rest of the cricket world for ban-

and make it difficult for players to just up and

win big

yesterday.

highest 64.

SPORTS REPORTER

Though the board has communicated an

Pakistan has been badly hit by ICL defections

letter saying so," Razzaq said.

"When Yousuf left the ICL the first time, did

problem

future of the ICL. "We are ready to leave the ICL amnesty, officials still anticipate problems with

and play for Pakistan," Razzaq told Cricinfo. "If the contracts players have signed with the ICL

the board invites us and says, sign a letter to say and implications from reneging on them. The

you will play for Pakistan and leave other contracts, says the PCB's legal cell, are one-sided

perhaps lack of communication between the at all. If a legal case has to happen it has to, but if

triot as his unbeaten 27-bal 43

guided Dhaka Sports Club to

DADA SPORTS: 65-5 in 10

overs (Saeed Anwar Jr 45,

Zunaed 1, Imran 11, Kasif 5,

Faisal 0 not out, Sazzad 0,

extras 3; Bashar 1-13, Waseem

DHAKA SPORTS CLUB: 66-3

in 7.2 overs (Waseem 43 not

out, Rashedur 0, Bashar 1,

Hanif 1, Anisur 11 not out,

extras 10; Saeed Anwar 1-10,

RESULT: Dhaka Sports won by

Man-of-the-Match: Waseem

Nayeem (Dhaka Sports Club).

BROTHERS: 150-7 in 20 overs

(Mehrab 33, Mubarak 20,

Tushar 33, Kapugedera 40 not

ABAHANI: 77-2 in 11 overs

(Tamim 41 not out, Hannan

23, extras 6; Mubarak 1-21,

Man-of-the-Match: Tamim

out, extras 8; Rasel 2-21).

Shahajada 1-6).

RESULT: Match Tied.

Kasif 1-16, Kamrul 1-10).

seven wickets.

reach 66 for three in 7.2 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

1-19, Shahadat 2-4).

board and ICL players -- that still surrounds the our availability is there, it shouldn't be an issue."

But in an indication of the muddle -- and leave. Not so, says Razzaq. "They are not like that

so it is not inspiring his batsmen and Younus must lift his batting to inspire his struggling batting," said Raja, now a commentator. "In a nutshell, it (captaincy) comes in a package. You learn a lot of things which include

He said Younus should learn in the fourth match here on Friday.

"I think Younus must learn

"Clarke has led the batting score," said Raja.

Clarke also hit a fighting 66 and took three wickets to help Australia beat Pakistan by 27 runs in the third match here on

ond match played in Dubai, which Australia won by six wickets last week.

Malik, who was sacked following Pakistan's 2-1 defeat against Sri Lanka in February this year.

behind whenever he goes out to the crease.

Ansar reign in weightlifting

SPORTS REPORTER

Razzaq last played an ODI for Pakistan in May Fifteen national records were just how they will do so, Razzaq said he was 2007 and the last of his 46 Tests in December set in the national senior, junior and women's weightlifting championship ended yesterday at the National Sports Council (NSC) gymnasium.

women's meet.

BCB Under-17s posted a Ansar's Biddyut Roy, Firoza massive 131-run victory Parveen and Fahima Akhter against CAB Under-17s in the created a national record in two-day match in Kolkata their respective events.

Biddyut lifted a record In reply to an imposing 289, 120kg in the 105kg snatch CAB were bundled out for 158 category and later lifted 140kg in 46.5 overs with Rahul to clinch gold, his overall 20th Bhattachariya scoring team

gold medal from the national meets. Firoza set a record in the 63kg category as she lifted

picked up three wickets for 35 runs while Soumya Sarker and Arif Rija took two wickets each.

Haddin captain for Twenty20

Abu Jayed Chowdhury

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Clarke's stand-in leadership will be passed on to Brad Haddin for the final game of Australia's limited-overs campaign against Pakistan. Clarke took over from Ricky Ponting and guided the side to a series win, but he will head home a few days early to rest ahead of the engagements in England over the next four

"The most worrying thing is that Younus has not been in the best of form. He is averaging below 10 in one-dayers in 2009,

team selection, strategies and pre-match planning and Younus will learn with time," said Raja.

from his Australian counterpart Michael Clarke, who hit a match-winning 100 not out to steer Australia to a comfortable eight-wicket win over Pakistan

from Clarke," he said.

from the front and although he struggled in the second match he remained stuck there and has been shouldering the batting since then, while Younus has not managed a big

Monday. He managed 39 in the sec-

Younus replaced Shoaib

Raja suggested Younus leave the burden of captaincy

Ten were set in the junior, two in senior and three in the

On the concluding day,

65kg in snatch and later lifted 75kg to finish top leaving behind Rokeya Sultana Sathi, who lifted a total 110kg. In the 53kg category, Fahima broke her previous

record to lift 65kg in the snatch category and 85kg in the jerk to bag gold while Mitali Chakma finished second lifting overall 83kg.

Fahima was also adjudged the best women's weightlifter bagging 97 points while Shimul of Army was named the best athlete in the junior group. Ansar became champions

in both senior and women's meet while Army became champions in the junior meet.

25

26 27

48 49

Nadal-Djokovic final Razzaq a la Yousuf

netted a backhand.

the opening game of the second as Djokovic

came and after the players came back on court he

wind changed completely as he won five games

blood in the decider when he broke for a 3-1

errors to give the Serbian a 40-0 lead and a

crosscourt forehand winner secured a break

After that Federer's game simply crumbled,

It was the first time Djokovic had beaten

Nadal had few problems in despatching

Chilean 12th seed Gonzalez and the Spaniard

broke his opponent four times on the way to

after a series of three breaks in a row, Nadal

never looked back and romped to his 29th

From the moment he opened up a 4-3 lead

Now he is looking forward to facing

Djokovic, against whom he has a 7-0 winning

particularly his backhand. He lost his next

service game with a netted backhand slice and

another backhand error into the tramlines.

had a chance for a double break and a 4-1 lead.

in a row to level the scores at a set all.

The number two seed led 2-1 when the rains

But after Djokovic saved that and held, the

However, Federer regrouped and drew first

But Federer then made three unforced

Safina survives a scare

AFP, Stuttgart

World number one Dinara Safina overcame a first set scare here Saturday to outclass unseeded Italian Flavia Pennetta 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 and book her place in the WTA | Saturday. Stuttgart final.

Safina, who will play Russian compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova on Sunday, turned her semi-final around in the second set after calling for her coach Zeljko Krajan, going on to recover from 3-1 down to win the second 7-5.

In the third set plucky Pennetta, who beat last year's finalist Nadia Petrova and Jelena Jankovic en route to the semi-final, tired badly, having made the last four of the doubles competition, and failed to offer much resistance.

In the other semifinal fifthseed Kuznetsova needed just 67 minutes to beat fellow Russian Elena Dementieva to reach her first final of the year.

The 23-year-old was rarely troubled by Olympic champion Dementieva and having blasted through the first set in 38 minutes, Kuznetsova needed only 29 minutes to take the second.

Rain plays

FROM PAGE 17

final where they face Nazrul Pathagar today. National Cricket Club (75-

2) earned an eight-wicket victory over Joypurhat Cricket Club (107 all out) through the D/L method at the Rangpur Cricket Garden. The Nilphamari club now take on Rahman Nagar Cricket Club of Bogra in the zonal semifinal today.

WOMEN'S CLUB CUP

The semifinal matches of the Women's Club Cup scheduled for today have been shifted to Tuesday because of unplayable ground condition at Gulshan Youth Club and City Club due to rain.

It's close

FROM PAGE 20 only for Mahamadou Niang to

pull Marseille level 15 minutes later. Gignac then took advantage of some slack Marseille

defending to grab his second, only for Niang, a minute later, to be credited with a second goal which took a freakish deflection. Gignac is now the league's leading scorer with 21 goals, but it is a place in Europe next

season which Toulouse, in fifth place two points behind Paris Saint Germain, covet most. Reigning champions Lyon's hopes of an eighth consecutive crown were seri-

ously dashed after a shock 2-0

defeat away to northern side

Valenciennes. Valenciennes' Johan Audel scored a first-half brace in a match in which Lyon failed to put their title credentials on display, leaving them at the mercy of results elsewhere.



Lionel Messi became the youngest player ever to score a league goal for Barcelona in 2005 in a match against Albacete - aged just 17 years, 10 | drive. months and 7 days.

Federer served out the set and then broke in record on clay. RP close to WC squad

FROM PAGE 17 Chennai Super Kings, from his more regular No. 6 spot, that turned the inaugural game of the season Mumbai's way. Jadeja has done nothing to lose his place, and the verdict here is more likely to go with the incumbent. The choice between the three might come down to their part-time skill: do the selectors want their 15th man to be a part-time wicketkeeper, a part-time medium-pacer, or a part-time spinner? Karthik's assured batting in the IPL, and his being

Tennis

in the three previous years.

6, 6-3, 6-3 in a thriller.

World number one Rafael Nadal will play Novak

Djokovic in the final of the ATP Rome Masters

after their respective victories against

Fernando Gonzalez and Roger Federer on

champion here and needs to retain his title or

Britain's Andy Murray will overtake him in the

world rankings, while Nadal claimed the crown

break to transform his play and beat Federer 4-

heavens opened but after a little more than an

The Swiss master hadn't even faced a single

Federer broke Djokovic at 4-4 in the first set

That seemed to rattle the 21-year-old and in

after the Serbian was put off by a whistle from

the crowd when facing break-point on a second

break point before the rain but was broken five

times after it as his game gradually broke down.

He later blamed the rain for his defeat.

the ensuing rally he hit a wild forehand long.

hour off court Djokovic came back rejuvenated,

and Federer's game slowly crumbled.

Serbian Djokovic made the most of a rain

AFP, Rome

a wicket keeper, might just be the clincher for him. Piyush Chawla, out of the Indian scheme of things for quite a while now, has done his best in the IPL, but his charge has been thwarted by Pragyan Ojha, who has done even better. The experience of

Harbhajan Singh, and also the good form he has run into, cannot simply be dispensed. None of Ajit Agarkar, Robin Uthappa, Joginder Sharma, Sreesanth or Chawla will be there to defend the trophy they won two years ago. But vis-àvis India's last international

Twenty20 squad, expect 13 to

be there. **PROBABLE SQUAD**

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Rohit Sharma, Yusuf Pathan, finish.

Harbhajan Singh, Pragyan Ojha, Zaheer Khan, Ishant Sharma, Dinesh Karthik/Ravindra Jadeja/Abhishek Nayar, and three out of Irfan Pathan, Munaf Patel, Praveen Kumar and RP Singh.

Inter coast

FROM PAGE 20

Chances were few and far between in a quiet first half and after the break Inter's frustrated fans started displaying their frustration.

Surprisingly, Ibrahimovic was the target after he tried unsuccessfully to beat two players in the box when a pass to the unmarked Sulley would

have been a better option. Some fans jeered the striker but his reaction was immediate as on 58 minutes he teased two defenders on the edge of the box, shifted the ball onto his right foot and then with minimal backlift thrashed a rocket

past Muslera's despairing dive. Ibrahimovic celebrated angrily by going to the fans who jeered him and placing a finger overhislips.

And 20 minutes from time he was again decisive, playing a clever pass around the corner as three defenders converged on him, allowing Sulley to gallop free and beat Muslera at his near post with a crisp left foot

FROM PAGE 17

3-0 in Tangail.

High School beat Badalgachi Pilot High School 3-0.

Kabaddi Stadium in the city with two matches slated for the opening day.

Sangha will take on Bangladesh Boys Club while Sat Rowja Nabin Sangha meets Muradnagar Ekadash later in the day.

(NSC) secretary Shafiq Anwar will formally inaugurate the meet as chief guest.

FROM PAGE 20

say. You have to recognise that, although it hurts a lot."

FROM PAGE 20

Having forced their way into title contention with five consecutive wins, Stuttgart faltered with a 2-2 draw at Arminia Bielefeld which leaves them five points behind Wolfsburg, but the point lifts them to third.

enjoyed a 2-0 win at Eintracht Frankfurt and are just outside the European places for next season on sixth and are eight points behind Wolfsburg.

touching distance of a to Bayer Leverkusen.

At the bottom of the table,

Nayeem outshined his compa-Igbal (Abahani). CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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Solution time: 21 mins. ADAMANTLY SYNDROMELL

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months.

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN SOME POPULAR ANCIENT STORIES WITH MORALS, COULD CHARACTER FLAWS BE CALLED AESOP'S FOIBLES?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals L

Akmal outshines

FROM PAGE 17

Watson struck a brilliant knock hundred to guide Australia to a commanding total. The 27year-old right-hander made 116 and shared solid stands of 58 for the first wicket with Brad Haddin (36) and another 57 for the third with Michael Clarke (26) after Australia won the toss and batted.

Watson, who came to this series after missing action since a stress fracture of his back in November last year, struck six boundaries and two sixes off pacemen Umar Gul and Yasir Arafat during his second one-day hundred.

He also added 84 for the unfinished fifth wicket stand with Calum Ferguson (41 not out) as Australia made 54 runs in the last ten overs.

Watson's partnership with Haddin gave Australia a brisk start before paceman Shoaib Akhtar separated the two, claiming Haddin caught by Younus Khan off a miscued

Haddin hit seven bound-

aries during his brisk 31-ball

Off-spinner Saeed Ajmal, whose action was reported illegal after the second match but was played despite the decision, removed Marcus North (five), stumped by wicket-keeper Kamran Akmal. Clarke, who hit a brilliant

unbeaten 100 in Australia's eight-wicket win in the fourth match here on Friday, steadied the innings with Watson before Gul had him caught behind the wicket. It was left to Watson and Ferguson to give final touches

playing some delightful strokes during his 146-ball knock.

BRIEFSCORES

to the innings, with Watson

Akhtar 1-43). PAKISTAN: 254-3 in 47 overs (Akmal 116*, Misbah 76*; Hauritz 2-44).

AUSTRALIA: 250-4 in 50 overs

(Watson 116, Ferguson 41*;

Result: Pakistan win by seven wickets.

School soccer

Haji Ibrahim Almachan defeated Munshiganj Bahumukhi High School 2-0 and Surjoratna School beat Obaidur Rahman High School

In Natore, Durgapur Pilot

At the Kishorganj Stadium, Idrichia Alim Madrasa got a walkover over Haluaghat Adarsha High School while Jhenaigati Pilot High School beat Shinghajati High School

by 3-2. At the Nilphamari Stadium, Rangpur crushed Municipal High School 5-1 while Kundupukur High School thrashed Rangpur Rifles School 8-1.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17

On the day, Shishu Kishore

National Sports Council

Happiest day

above and today showed that they were superior," said Ramos. "The big European sides have been better than us and there is nothing else to

Dzeko Wolves

Borussia Dortmund

Schalke 04 are also within European place for next season despite losing 2-1 at home

Karlsruhe picked up a valuable point in their quest to stay up with a 0-0 draw with fellow relegation candidates Energie Cottbus, but are still four points from safety.

ACROSS 41 Minion 25 Provider 2 Last 1 Help word in 4 Site of Satan Gilligan's veritas 26 Sandwich treat

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54 Insepa-

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53 |54 **CRYPTOQUIP**