have made it clear that the

current environment in

Bangalore prevents us from

continuing with our original

plans," Modi said in a state-

ment issued by the IPL. "The

incidents were assessed by

local police and the IPL's secu-

rity agency as being of a minor

nature but they have forced our

Bangalore, which point to a

lapse in security, have raised

concerns over both general

pre-match security procedures

and the specific handling of the

match after the blasts. There

have been unconfirmed

reports of some overseas play-

ers being unwilling to go ahead

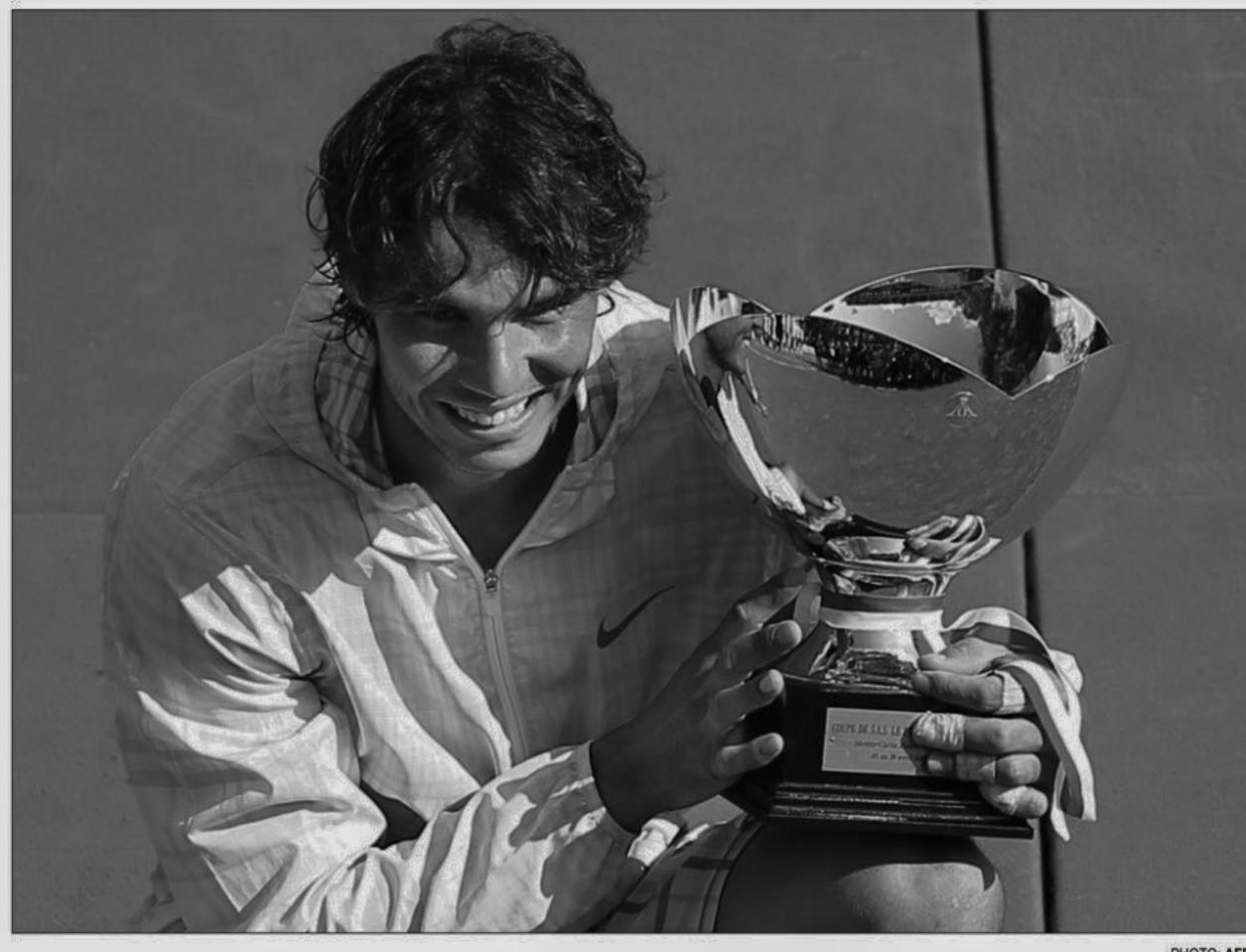
with Saturday's game and

question marks over security

arrangements during the

The developments in





Spaniard Rafael Nadal holds the winner's trophy after beating compatriot Fernando Verdasco in the Monte Carlo Masters Series final in Monaco yesterday.

Women chess Nadal makes history

Final phase of Arlin Developer 31st National Women Chess Championship-2010 will start on the 24th April at Narayangonj Club, said a press release from Bangladesh Chess Federation. The event will be held in round-robin league system. Twelve players are participating in the event. The number draw of the participating players will be held on April 23. Participants have been requested to report at **Bangladesh Chess Federation** office on that day by 12:00

Div I b'ball starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier Bank First Division Basketball League starts today at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium. A total of 15 clubs are to take part in the league. Member of Parliament Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh will inaugurate the event as chief guest while managing director of Premier Bank Niaz Habib will also be present as special guest.

'Bomb attack no CWG threat'

AFP, Sydney

Australian Commonwealth Games chief Perry Crosswhite said the bomb attack that injured at least eight people at a weekend Indian Premier League cricket match was not a direct threat to October's Games in New Delhi. Crosswhite, speaking at

Australia's Games track and field selection trials in Perth, said he had not been contacted by any athletes expressing concerns that the Bangalore attack would deter them from competing in New Delhi. On Sunday police in

Bangalore defused two crudely made bombs found next to the 40,000-seater Chinnaswamy Stadium where the two blasts on Saturday sparked panic among spectators, a senior officer said there.

"These things continue to happen and they will continue all the way to the Games, but [security experts] don't see it as direct threat to the Games," Crosswhite told reporters.

"It's just another example of unrest in the country and that part of the world and no one has claimed any responsibil-

Australia's discus world champion Dani Samuels said security at major sporting events continued to be an issue for athletes.

McLaren

FROM PAGE 20

tyres, rose to second and then took the lead from Rosberg after 19 of the 56 laps and stayed there.

The result gave McLaren their first one-two finish since the Italian Grand Prix at Monza in 2007, when Hamilton was second to thenteammate Alonso.

It is the first British one-two in Formula One since 1995 when Damon Hill and David Coulthard dominated the

Hungarian Grand Prix. Button now leads the title race on 60 points ahead of Rosberg on 50 with Alonso and Hamilton equal third on 49.

Tennis buried his face in his towel in AFP, Monte Carlo victory as the enormity of his success began to sink in. Rafael Nadal charged back to "I'm sorry for today Fernando," he joked to his clay-court supremacy with overwhelming force on Davis Cup team-mate, who Sunday, crushing Fernando Nadal dominated with

Verdasco 6-0, 6-1 to claim an unprecedented sixth straight title at the Monte Carlo had in a long time and there is Masters. The Spaniard also ended a here."

personal dry spell as he charged to his first title since defeating Novak Djokovic last May in the Rome final. The intervening months

have been a test for the world number three, who has dealt with knee problems and a loss of his championship form. The four-time Roland

Garros champion returned to form with one of the most brilliant efforts of his storied career, losing a total of just 14 games and winning three matches with the loss of just one game in each.

"This has been an unbelievable week for me, it was

very emotional for me," said the overjoyed winner, who

now has a 0-10 record against Nadal. "This is the best week I've

no better place to do it than Nadal claimed his 32nd straight win at Monte Carlo

and remains undefeated at the venue since 2003. Nadal becomes the first player in the post-1968 Open era to win a tournament title

for six straight years and gives

Spain their eighth winner in

the last nine tournaments. He improved to 16-6 his record at the Masters 1000 level as he claimed the 26th clay title of his career, having lost his only two clay finals against Roger Federer, in Hamburg in 2007 and Madrid

in 2009. "Rafa played really well today," said the devastated Verdasco, who lost the first six games in 35 minutes. "He's done everything

here the last six years. I just hope he gets tired of winning this event soon and gives the rest of us a chance."

seven breaks of serve while his compatriot Verdasco committed 32 unforced errors. The sixth-seeded chal-

lenger looked threatening only once, in the marathon sixth game of the second set, as he forced the fighting Nadal to save five break points to move ahead 5-1.

A game later it was all over on the first match point as Nadal broke back for victory.

Women's

FROM PAGE 17

After Ety Mondal's five-for, Mohammedan walloped through to a small victory target of 38 in five overs without losing a wicket.

Gul, Arafat out

chairman hadn't been informed of the names at that point; senior officials in the board were bewildered that the trio had announced the names without any consultation with the chairman. "There has been some

miscommunication over this but the names have not been approved," Butt told Cricinfo. "They will be announced later today [Sunday]." The confusion initially

overshadowed the magnitude of Pakistan's loss. A calf injury had ruled Arafat out some time ago and it was only his departure from the tournament last year and Abdul Razzaq's arrival that settled Pakistan's line-up.

But Gul will be a significant blow, especially as he was thought to be recovering from a shoulder injury he picked up during a fielding drill. Medical assessments held over the weekend weren't bright. Gul had been their leading wickettaker in both the 2007 and 2009 editions of the World Twenty20. His death bowling was a key component of the

record spell of 5-6 against New Zealand, sparking a turnaround in the team's fortunes. He is currently the world's leading wicket-taker in the format.

Sami's name was widely being touted as a possible replacement in any case, so impressive has his comeback into the national eye been since he led Karachi to a Quaid-e-Azam trophy title last year and was called up to Australia. Afridi has always been a fan and at the ICC trophy unveiling earlier this week, informally spoke very highly of Sami's commitment

and energy in the field. If both replacements are approved by the chairman, Irfan's will be one of the stories of the tournament and not only because he will be the tallest bowler there: his official height, with typical confusion, is recorded as anywhere between 6'8" and 7'2". The left-arm paceman's rise to national selection is nothing short of remarkable.

He made his first-class debut this season, for Khan

after huge interest was created around him on the popular Pakistani fans' website, PakPassion.net. One of their writers was told of Irfan by a former first-class fast bowler Nadeem Igbal, who was running an academy in Multan; Irfan hails from Gaggu Mandi, a nearby town which also produced former Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Zahid.

The writer, while subsequently interviewing Aaqib Javed -- then with the National Cricket Academy in Lahore -mentioned Irfan's name to him and Aaqib immediately asked for Irfan to come to the academy. He was spotted by KRL captain Mohammad Wasim, the former Pakistan opener, and an impressive debut season brought him to

the attention of the selectors. Though he wasn't in the reserves of the 15-man squad announced by the PCB, his performances in the RBS Twenty20 Cup and the potential surprise value his height brings have thought to have persuaded the management to prompt for him.

Barca's derby

Pep Guardiola brought on Seydou Keita and Thierry Henry to inject some attacking threat but five minutes later the champions were reduced to ten men.

Alves pulled down Jose Callejon close to the half-way line to pick up a second yellow push Sevilla into fourth. card and leave Barcelona with one man less. The extra man didn't help

Espanyol too much but Barcelona were impotent Monday. going forward with Espanyol goalkeeper Kameni not making a notable save in the entire match.

Ibrahimovic came on late tricky match at Villarreal. but a curling effort from Messi was the closest the visitors came to an unlikely win.

Elsewhere Sevilla climbed up to fourth with a comfortable 3-0 home win over nine man Sporting Gijon on Saturday taking them two points above Real Mallorca in

the Champions League race.

Valladolid on Tuesday but

bounced back with an early

goal from Mali international

forward Frederic Kanoute

putting them ahead before

Luis Fabiano and Juan Cala

scored second half goals to

Mallorca, two points

Later on Saturday Atletico

behind in fifth, can go back

into fourth place with a home

victory over Osasuna on

Madrid prepare for Thursday's

Europa League semifinal first

leg against Liverpool with a

bottom side Xerez in midweek

to fall eight points off the top

the final European spot and

would end Atletico's faint

Madrigal.

Atletico lost at home to

Villarreal are two points off

Sevilla had lost to lowly

Chargers **FROM PAGE 17 SCORES IN BRIEF**

DECCAN CHARGERS: 145-7 in 20 overs (Symonds 54, Mishra 25; Nehra 2-32, Yadav 2-24). **DELHI DAREDEVILS: 134-7** in 20 overs (Collingwood 51*, Manhas 23; Ojha 2-16, Harmeet 2-41).

Result: Deccan Chargers won by 11 runs.

Abahani **FROM PAGE 17**

to decide to withdraw his

resignation following the request of the BHF president, other official bearers as well as the national players. He said that he would

decide by May 21, the day of the inter-ministerial meeting ahead of the Asian Games Qualifiers to be held in Bangladesh from May 7 to 15.

A meeting to decide on the hopes with a win at El fate of the final will be held on May 24.

Chennai move into last four

CRICINFO, unadated

SPÖRI

A pumped-up Mahendra Singh Dhoni again showed why he's one of the great finishers in the game, blasting 25 runs in the final two overs to make Chennai Super Kings the first team to reach the semifinals of each IPL. Chennai's chances seemed dim after Shaun Marsh's sparkling innings had powered Punjab to a massive total, but meaty innings from Suresh Raina and S Badrinath set the stage for a Dhoni onslaught in a tense finish. Punjab held the edge for

most of the match, and going into the last two overs Chennai needed 29, a tough task even with sluggers Dhoni and Albie Morkel at the crease. Juan Theron had been the hero when the last time two teams met, but he couldn't save Punjab at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala. The penultimate over, by Theron, started with two murderous hits for four from Dhoni, feasting on the length deliveries offered. He looked to repeat on the third ball, but a thick edge flew high and fast to wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara who managed to get a glove on it. Theron kept it to singles for the rest of the over, leaving Chennai a stil taxing 16 off the final over. Irfan Pathan had bowled

the last six deliveries against Chennai at the Chidambaram as well, and he had kept them down to nine runs to push that match into a Superover. This time, though, he didn't have a tailender like R Ashwin to bowl to; it was a Dhoni channelling the buccaneer spirit with which he made his name.

The first delivery was almost a yorker, but Dhoni managed to power it past long-off for four. The next was a slower ball that he topedged, but it swirled and landed short of Piyush Chawla for two and Chennai were two runs closer.

SCORES IN BRIEF KINGS XI PUNJAB: 192 for 3 in

20 overs (Marsh 88 not out, Irfan 44 not out, Sangakkara **CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 195**

for 4 in 19.4 overs (Dhoni 54 not out, Badrinath 53, Raina 46; Power 2-28) Result: Chennai Super Kings

won by six wickets. Man-of-the-match

Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Invitational 2009 success in particular, a Research Laboratories, only table tennis

SPORTS REPORTER

Federation Cup Invitational Table Tennis Tournament 2010 will be held from May 8 to 13 at the wooden floor gymnasium in Paltan, said a press release from Bangladesh Tennis federation. Top eight finishing teams from the 30th National Table Tennis Championship will be participating in the event. Besides, other clubs from the senior Dhaka metropolis division can also take part at their own cost. Teams will be competing in six different categories. Teams have been asked to send their entries to the federation on their clubs' letterheads by May 2.

Semis moved to Mumbai

Two more bombs defused at Chinnaswamy

The semifinals of the Indian Premier PREMIER LEAGUE League (IPL) have been moved out of Bangalore and will be played at

CRICINFO, undated

the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai. The decision, announced by IPL commissioner Lalit Modi, was made following the two low-intensity blasts at the

match between Royal quent 24 hours.

the announcement. Bangalore shortly before the

"While reluctant to relocate the semifinals at such short Chinnaswamy Stadium in

Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians was due to begin on Saturday evening, and the recovery of two unexploded devices over the subse-"We don't want to take any chances. We want to ensure the

safety of our players and spec-

tators alike," Modi said from Dubai, where he is attending an ICC meeting, when he made

notice, yesterday's incidents

Sky Blues continue

FROM PAGE 17 placing the ball into the far

After suffering the first goal, Arambagh had started to come out from the shield though their toothless attacks could hardly threaten the Abahani backline which was boosted by the return of key defenders Atiqur Rahman Mishu and Rajani Kanta Barman, who missed the previous match due to inju-Abahani without the other

Ghanaian injured striker Sheriff Din Mohammad should have taken the lead in the 11th minute, but the luck was not with Abahani as Mehdi Hasan Ujjal beat goalkeeper Masudur Rahman but saw his placing shot go just wide. Seven minutes into the second half, Enamul availing a

fumble made by defender Prodip Barua advanced into the box to send the ball over the advancing goalkeeper to double the lead and the national striker made it 3-0 through his 10th league goal. Enamul was brought down by

defender Parvez inside the box and referee Azad Rahman awarded Abahani a penalty, which was also converted by the same player. Enamul could have struck a hattrick in stoppage time had he not sent a Awudu cross wide on the edge of the eight-yard box.

TEAMS

Bhattacharjee (Ziau) Rahman), Mohammad Sujan Rajani Kanta Barman, Atiqur Rahman Mishu, Zahed Parvez Chowdhury (Shahedul Alam) Pranotosh Kumar Das, Motius Munna (Abul Hossain), Mehdi Hasan Ujjal, Enamul Haque, Samad Yousuf and Awudu Ibrahim. ARAMBAGH: Masudur

Rahman, Aminur Rahman, Rrodip Barua, Deen Mohammad, Mostafizur Rahman, Parveez, Saiful Islam (Nurul Islam), Kabir Hossain (Romen Roman), Kabuya Domenic, Alfaz Ahmed and Nicodemus Anunda. Yellow cards: Rajani, Awudu (Abahani); Red card - Nurul

For the moment, though, the international cricket boards are not prepared to wait and watch the situation. The England and Wales Cricket Board said they were in "constant contact with their players at various franchises over a number of issues, of which ABAHANI: Biplob safety and security is one, but there are no plans for the players to leave early."

tournament.

hand."

Cricket Australia (CA) spokesman Peter Young said the security situation in India would be closely monitored. "We're keen to talk to IPI organisers, and that will possibly happen sometime in the next 12 hours or so, just to get an understanding of what's going on," he said.

Former New Zealand fast bowler turned commentator, Simon Doull, who was at the Chinnaswamy, said it was "frightening" after the bombs went off. "I was standing next to Andy Bichel and, when we heard the first explosion, we just looked at each other and went on 'what's going on here?'," Doull told New Zealand media.

Title race blown open FROM PAGE 17 stoppage-time goal in a 1-0

Islam (Arambagh)

Referee: Azad Rahman

against Arsenal, moved into

fourth place. That left them two points clear of Manchester City in the

race for the final Champions League spot on offer to English "They've been fantastic," said Redknapp of his team. "After the disappointment of

last Sunday to come back with these two wins is top class. "We were even better today than we were against Arsenal,

completely dominated."

Defoe put Spurs ahead from the penalty spot in the 15th minute after England defender Terry handled in the box and Bale, on target in the 2-1 win over Arsenal, doubled the lead a minute before halftime when he beat Petr Cech at

the goalkeeper's near post. Terry, already booked for a foul on Roman Pavlyuchenko, was sent off for a second yellow card offence by referee Phil Dowd after he went to ground and brought down Wales international Bale in the 67th minute.

Spurs, who wasted numerous chances to kill the game off, saw Chelsea pull a goal back in stoppage time through England midfielder Frank Lampard.

Earlier, veteran midfielder Paul Scholes kept United's title ambitions alive with a

20 "- Haw"

derby win away to Manchester There were barely 20 sec-

onds left in the three minutes

of added-on time at the end of the match when Scholes headed in Patrice Evra's cross at Eastlands. "Towards the end, City made a bit of a charge, it got a bit open, the game, and I

decided to push Scholesy forward a bit and it paid off,' explained United manager Sir in the first 30 minutes we Alex Ferguson. City's Italian boss Roberto Mancini, while disappointed

> by defeat, insisted his side's bid for Champions League was still on course. "The crucial match will be against Tottenham here (on May 5)," he said.

Sunderland edged Burnley nearer relegation with a 2-1 home win where Frazier Campbell and Darren Bent scored for the Black Cats in the first half before Steven Thompson pulled a goal back for the Clarets eight minutes from time.

Meanwhile secondbottom Hull remained in the drop zone after a goalless draw away to Birmingham.

Australia international Tim Cahill's 10th goal of the season boosted Everton's European hopes as he scored the winner in a 3-2 victory away to Blackburn Rovers.

35

Everton took the lead at Ewood Park through Mikel Arteta's fourth minute penalty after the Spaniard was brought down by New Zealand's Ryan Nelsen.

But Rovers levelled after

Steven Nzonzi let fly with a swerving 30-yard shot in the 69th minute.

Substitutes then scored for both sides, Everton forward Yakubu heading the visitors 2-1 up less than 30 seconds after coming on before Rovers striker Jason Roberts equa-

lised nine minutes from time. Yakubu then turned provider for Cahill's 90th minute

Bolton all but assured themselves of Premier League football next season after two goals in the final five minutes from Matt Taylor saw them come from behind to beat Stoke, who'd opened the scoring through Dave Kitson,

Wolves inched nearer safety with a goalless draw away to Europa League semifinalists Fulham.

Strugglers Wigan are at home to Arsenal on Sunday when already-relegated Portsmouth face Aston Villa at Fratton Park.

Liverpool, put up for sale by US co-owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett on Friday, play relegation-threatened West Ham at Anfield on Monday.

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CERTAINLY MADE A FABULOUS DISC-OVERY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I