

Malik waiting for a recall

ANI, Karachi

Former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik has expressed the hope of earning a recall in the national squad for the series against South Africa, which is scheduled to begin in Abu Dhabi from October 26.

Malik, who was dropped after the four-Test series against England in August, said in an interview that he was fully fit and would give his best, if given a chance to play in the upcoming series, The News reported.

To be played in October and November, the Pak-SA series will include two Twenty20s, five One-day Internationals (ODIs) and two Tests in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The experienced all-rounder also said that Pakistan should finalise its team for the World Cup as soon as possible, so that the selected players can play maximum matches together, ahead of the quadrennial spectacle to be held in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka next year.

Vibrant

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performing dances. Bangladesh's athletics team manager Mohammad Yahya also admitted that the security inside the Games Village is very tight and he has often had to show his accreditation card to the security personnel.

He also praised the environment inside the villages as the structures have been built keeping enough space between two buildings and there are facilities of having practice of swimming, athletics and weightlifting.

Over 50 national flags have been hoisted till Saturday afternoon with the green and red Bangladesh one in the first stand of the third row. Athletics coach Rafiqullah Islam Milon said there were no security concerns inside the villages as the swimmers had been practicing at the pool even at night.

However, an Indian journalist was apparently not happy with the tight security measures as he, like others was checked four times on way to reaching the international zone.

Sehwag

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Gambhir at short-leg off Harbhajan in the morning, his previous best being an unbeaten 120 against Pakistan at Melbourne last year.

He cracked 10 fours in his 338-ball knock.

Australia batted cautiously in the morning to add 71 in 29 overs to their overnight total of 224-5, but improved their run-rate in the afternoon session which yielded 95 runs in 26 overs.

Johnson played an entertaining innings, hitting two sixes off Ojha and one off Harbhajan. He looked set to complete his fifth Test half-century before being caught behind off Zaheer. He also hit five fours in his 66-ball knock.

Paine, dropped on nought on Friday, played some attractive strokes after completing his half-century, hitting two successive fours off Ojha.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 428 all out in 151.4 overs (Watson 126, Ponting 71, Paine 92, Johnson 47; Zaheer 5-30, Harbhajan 3-114)

INDIA: First innings 110 for 2 in 21 overs (Gambhir 25, Sehwag 59, Dravid not out 21; Johnson 2-29)

Rain

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Jurgensen, who played first-class cricket for Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania, said that the ten bowlers in the New Zealand squad have kept him on his toes.

"We have a couple of guys that can bowl at good pace, swing and bowl a heavy ball. Then we have Daniel Vettori and Nathan McCullum so we have plenty of options."

Meet the Press



Golfers of the Bangladesh team and their team manager pose for photographs at the Bangladesh Olympic Association conference hall on the eve of their departure for Japan where they will take part in the Asian Amateur Championship at the Kasumegaseki Country Club in Tokyo to be held between October 7 and 10. All the three participants, Shakhawat Hossain Sohail, Dulal Hossain, and Zakiruzzaman were part of the gold medal winning Bangladesh golf team in the South Asian Games earlier this year.

'Small amount no excuse'



INTERNET

The ability of only select laboratories to detect the small amount of clenbuterol in Alberto Contador's samples is not sufficient reason to clear the rider, according to International Cycling Union chief Pat McQuaid.

The Tour de France champion was provisionally suspended on Thursday for having a concentration of anabolic agent clenbuterol 400 times less than what anti-doping laboratories accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency must be able to detect.

The Spanish rider, who gave the sample on a rest day at the Tour in July and has blamed contaminated meat, has called for authorities to put baselines on the amounts of banned substances athletes can present before they are regarded suspicious.

"That really isn't an excuse, because the UCI has the capacity to send samples to any laboratory we wish to send samples," McQuaid said at the road world championships in Geelong.

"If we feel that by sending samples to particular laboratories it benefits us in the fight against doping -- that we catch cheats that we mightn't catch if we send them to other laboratories -- we send them."

"I'm not by any means casting any reference on what Alberto Contador had to say in relation to that or not, but in principle we will do anything we can."

"It's not our role [to set baselines]. It's WADA that controls that. We work within the rules that are there."

McQuaid declined to comment directly on Contador's case but confirmed that at least two laboratories -- in France and in the German city

Jankovic gets going



AFP, Beijing

World number six Jelena Jankovic of Serbia opened her China Open campaign on Saturday with a gritty straight sets win over Czech veteran Klara Zakopalova, as play got under way in the women's draw.

Jankovic, the third seed in Beijing and the only seeded player in action on Saturday, slugged it out with Zakopalova from the baseline but eventually capitalised on the Czech's weak serving, breaking her a total of seven times.

The 25-year-old Serb -- trying to rebound from an early loss to Estonia's Kaia Kanepi in the Pan Pacific Open this week in Tokyo -- also kept Zakopalova off-balance by mixing her heavy groundstrokes with the occasional lob.

"It was a tough match. The first match is always tough, and obviously you cannot expect yourself to play your best tennis, but I just hung in there," Jankovic told reporters.

The former world number one admitted she had struggled to recover from an ankle injury suffered after Wimbledon, but said she hoped to do well in Beijing as a stepping stone to the season-ending championships in Doha.

In other first-round play, Swiss veteran left-

XIX CWG open today

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robbing the event of much needed starpower. With the absence of those stars, India are expecting to perform well and finish at least behind the medal topper as a total of 262 gold medals are up for grabs.

India never finished on top in the Commonwealth Games despite the absence of world's major sporting nations like the United States, Russia, Germany, China and Japan, who are not members of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

But the Delhi edition of the Commonwealth Games is set

to be a historic landmark of being the biggest-ever show in terms of participation with more than 6,700 athletes and officials confirming their entries till Friday.

Indian Olympic gold medal winning shooter Abhinav Bindra will carry the tri-colour and take oath on behalf of the athletes.

Bangladesh, who have a negligible medal record in the Games, will be hoping to steal some success from the events of shooting and archery though they will also take part in squash, athletics, weightlifting, boxing and swimming.

Lanka include

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conditions. SQUAD Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Upul Tharanga, Chamara Silva, Jeevan Mendis, Angelo Mathews (subject to fitness, Thilina Kandamby on standby), Chamara Kapugedara, Thisara Perera, Lasith Malinga, Nuwan Kulasekera, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralidaran, Suraj Randiv, Damika Prasad, Dinesh Chandimal.

Younus opens photo studio

ANI, Karachi

Dejected after repeatedly being sidelined by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the national selectors, former skipper Younus Khan has opened a photo studio in order to "divert his mind" away from the game and make productive use of his time.

Younus, who has not been selected in the Pakistan squad since the one-day international series in Australia back in February, has taken over a photo-shop business in Karachi where he is residing these days, the Daily Times reported.

"Yes I have started this photo-shop business. It is called 'Bambino Photo Studio'. It allows me to divert my mind and spend my time productively," confirmed the out of favour batsman.

"A close friend first had the shop and was going away after which I took it over and I am now rebuilding the studio and starting the business afresh. It has attracted me because photography has always fascinated me and it is a good business venture," he added.

He was also continuing his hobby of fishing regularly, said Younus, but made it clear that he had not given up hope of playing for Pakistan again.

"The domestic season is starting soon and I will be playing for my team and hopefully get back into match form, as I continue my training all the time. Whenever Pakistan requires my services I am always available for the team," he said optimistically.

However, Younus declined to comment on the reasons for the PCB refusing to consider him for selection.

Youzhny in final

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Fourth seed and US Open semifinalist Mikhail Youzhny won an all-Russian tie at the Malaysian Open Saturday, reaching the Asian ATP final with a win over compatriot Igor Andreev.

Youzhny defeated Andreev, a qualifier who once reached the Top 20, in a 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 comeback in just over 90 minutes. The winner will face the winner of eighth seed Andrey Golubev of Kazakhstan or Spanish fifth seed David Ferrer.

Youzhny stands 3-1 against Andreev, whose last ATP title came five years ago. World number nine Youzhny is fighting to qualify for the eight-man season-ending event in London from November 21. He lost to Rafael Nadal in the US Open semis a month ago.

Youzhny broke Andreev five times to earn his 38th win of the season against 15 losses. His only title so far came on clay in Munich last May.

Youzhny will be playing in his fourth final of the season after losing back-to-back in February against Sweden's Robin Soderling (Rotterdam) and Serbia's Novak Djokovic (Dubai).

Nadal sent packing



REUTERS, Bangkok

World number one Rafael Nadal suffered a surprise 2-6, 7-6, 6-3 semifinal defeat by unseeded Spanish compatriot Guillermo Garcia-Lopez at the Thailand Open on Saturday.

The US Open champion looked set to cruise into the final after a polished first-set performance but had no reply to Garcia-Lopez's thrilling fightback that led to a second-set tiebreak where Nadal's game started to unravel.

The 53rd-ranked Garcia Lopez will face Finland's Jarkko Nieminen, who continued his impressive run with a 6-3 6-2 win over Germany's Benjamin Becker to reach his first final of the season.

Nadal had only himself to blame for squandering 24 of 26 break points and making costly errors in a scintillating final set. He lost the cool and handed the advantage to his opponent midway through the gruelling two-hour, 45-minute encounter.

Garcia-Lopez sought treatment for hip and back injuries after the first set but showed his resolve by keeping Nadal at bay and frustrating him with pinpoint forehands and precise drop shots.

"I've never beaten a world number one before, this was the best match of my career," Garcia-Lopez told reporters.

"For the moment, I'm shocked. He had so many chances to break me but I stayed in the match. I played really, really good."

"Everything was moving so fast. I knew that if I thought about beating Rafa Nadal, I'd have a problem so I tried not to think about it," he said.

The turning point came in

Lorgat comes up with a new idea



ANI, Melbourne

Cricket Australia's plan to overhaul 50-over cricket with its radical split-innings 45-over version for the 2015 World Cup could be over before it starts, with International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive officer Haroon Lorgat certain a one-day international league will save the game.

The ICC chief executive's committee, which includes Cricket Australia boss James Sutherland, has initially agreed to the championship league, which would run from next April until April 2014, crowning a 50-over champion every three years, with the fourth year being a World Cup.

Cricket Australia will introduce its new format to the world on Wednesday when Queensland play Tasmania.

The format has some exciting features, and CA believes it is the way of the future.

Lorgat, however, remains unconvinced about one-day cricket requiring a makeover. He has, instead, called for more context to games as money-hungry boards schedule meaningless series of up to seven matches.

"I am still a strong supporter of 50-over cricket. Our research shows fans still like the game," Lorgat told the Sydney Morning Herald.

He added: "The important point is structure, schedule and context. A championship league would give context to every match."

Lorgat said the league could still work if boards continued to schedule five- or seven-match series, but that would be made difficult because each nation must play each other during the three-year championship cycle.

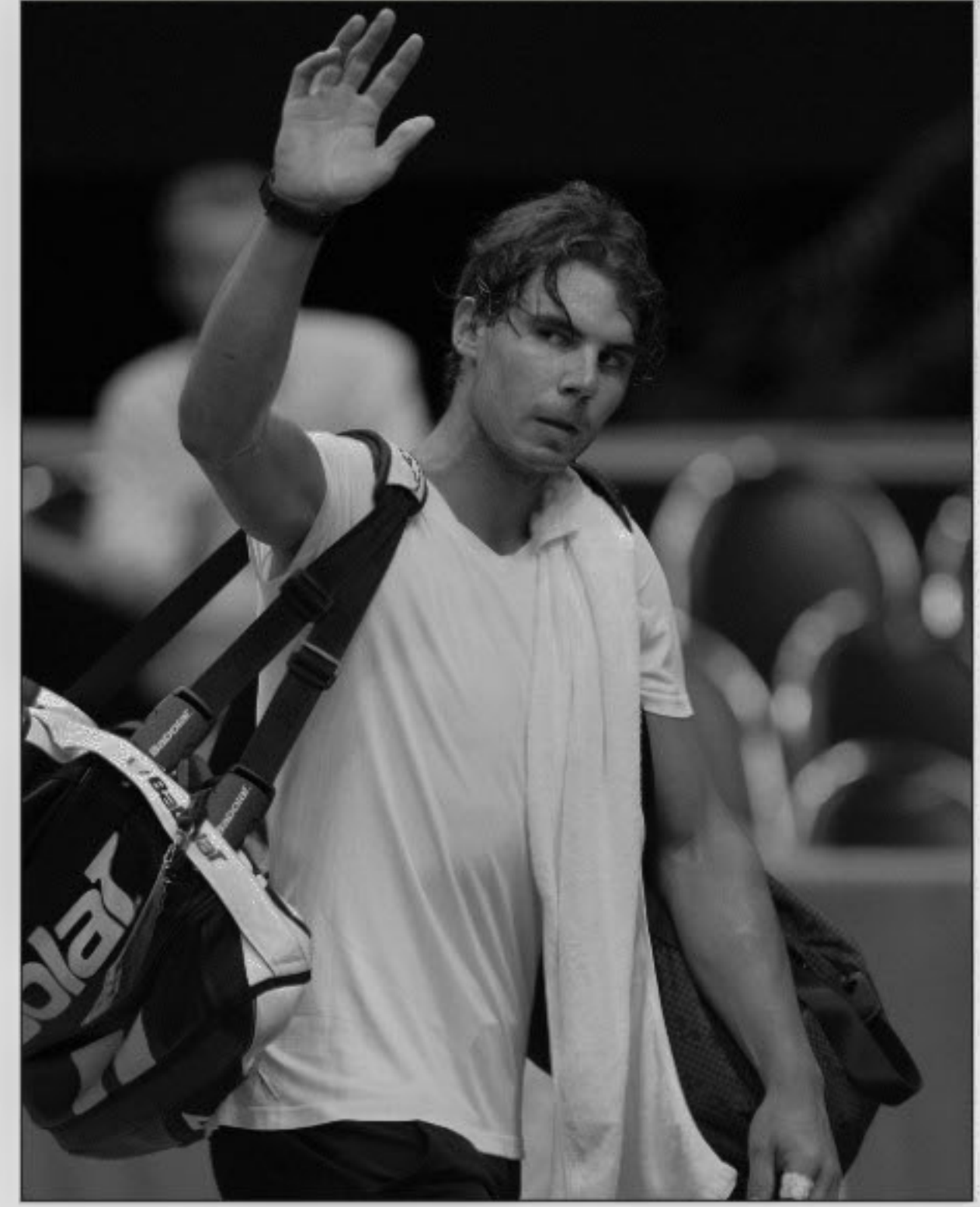
Previously, the likes of Australia have been able to avoid significant financial losses by playing lower-drawing nations such as Bangladesh and Zimbabwe once every four years.

Lorgat said next year's World Cup would prove the popularity of the 50-over game, which remained the favourite format of Indian supporters.

He played very, very well. This is a difficult loss to accept. But when you waste chances like that, winning becomes very unlikely."

In the other semi, Nieminen had both the edge and the fortitude in a close battle with the hard-hitting German and was made to work for his victory.

Nieminen served well and made the break in the second game, coolly handling Becker's repertoire of spin-lobbed returns that had him pinned down and darting around the court in a match packed with long rallies.



A dejected world number one Rafael Nadal waves goodbye after his loss against compatriot Guillermo Garcia-Lopez in the semifinals of the ATP Open in Bangkok on Saturday. Nadal lost the match 6-2, 6-7, 3-6.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 27 mins and a solution key at the bottom.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers for solving.

CRYPTOQUIP
EXKUCTMTG GNPP JGXBZGBXM
CT ENXCJ GING INJ JKUM
RXMNRVBP NXZICGMZGBXM:
GIM NSVBP GKSMX.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE BARRACKS HAS PLENTY OF NEATLY STACKED PORTABLE BEDS. YOU COULD SAY IT'S COTS-EFFICIENT.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: G equals T