



Belgian tennis star Kim Clijsters dejectedly walks off the court after being eliminated from the French Open by Netherlands' Arantxa Rus at Roland Garros in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Kim ousted in Rd 2

AP, Paris

After wasting two match points in the second set and feeling her confidence fading, Kim Clijsters let the match slip away Thursday at the French Open.

The two-time French Open runner-up, seeded second at this year's tournament, lost to the 114th-ranked Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the second round.

Australian Open runner-up Andy Murray, two-time French Open finalist Robin Soderling and No. 10 Mardy Fish of the United States also advanced, as did No. 6 Li Na of China and No. 9 Petra Kvitova on the women's side.

Also Thursday, five-time champion Rafael Nadal was scheduled to be back on court -- two days after being stretched to five sets for the first time in his French Open career. Maria Sharapova was also set to play.

Clijsters, who had won her last 15 Grand Slam matches after taking the titles at last year's US Open and this year's Australian Open, failed to convert either match point in the second set.

Playing with her right ankle taped, the Belgian made 65 unforced errors in the match and lost 11 of the final 12 games. Rus finished with only 22 unforced errors and had only eight winners in the entire match.

Clijsters had her first chance to close out the match against the Dutchwoman when leading 5-2 in the second set, but Rus saved the match point and held to make it 5-3 before breaking Clijsters to get back on serve.

"When I was 5-2 down in the second set, I was thinking, 'Just go for it and play more aggressive,'" Rus said. "And, yeah, that really helped."

"At 6-5 I had a really good serve game, and then I won the set. Then I was thinking, 'Yeah, I can win this match!'"

Clijsters then had another match point in the 10th game, but Rus saved it again and

## Mumbai look beyond

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scoring just 143 runs from 15 matches with 28 being his highest.

But Kiwi all-rounder James Franklin has been a welcome addition in Mumbai's playing eleven in the last two matches as he played crucial unbeaten knocks in both the games to help his side's cause.

In their last round-robin match against Kolkata on Saturday, Franklin came up with a match-winning 45 of 23 balls to guide Mumbai to a sensational five-wicket win and then followed it up with a 25-ball 29 not out on Wednesday to justify his place in the starting line-up.

With the long handle, off-spinner Harbhajan Singh too has been a revelation for Mumbai down the order.

On the bowling front, Mumbai boasts of a potent bowling attack with the likes of tournament's highest wicket-taker Lasith Malinga, Munaf Patel, Harbhajan and young Dhawal Kulkarni up its rank.

With his toe-crushing yorkers, Malinga has been outstanding in the event and come on Friday, Tendulkar would be looking towards the Sri Lankan to give them a good start by dismissing the dangerous Chris Gayle early.

Just like Malinga, Munaf too will be a major concern for RCB going into the match as the

eventually pushed the score to 5-5.

With the momentum shifting, Clijsters double-faulted for the seventh time -- one of her 28 unforced errors in the set -- to allow Rus to break and serve out the second set.

"She obviously started building up more confidence, started playing a lot better and was really kind of putting me on my back foot all the time. I couldn't really play my aggressive tennis anymore in that third set," Clijsters said.

Clijsters injured her right ankle while dancing at her cousin's wedding in April, sidelining her until the French Open. She last played at Roland Garros in 2006, when she reached the semifinals.

The last time Clijsters was eliminated this early at a major tournament was when she lost in the second round at Wimbledon in 2002.

But since returning to the tour in 2009 following the birth of her daughter, Clijsters has won three of her four Grand Slam titles.

Rus, the 2008 Australian Open junior champion, reached the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time.

Li beat Silvia Soler-Espinosa of Spain 6-4, 7-5, and Kvitova defeated two-time Grand Slam semifinalist Zheng Jie of China 6-4, 6-1.

No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, No. 15 Andrea Petkovic of Germany, No. 21 Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium and No. 25 Maria Kirilenko of Russia also advanced to the third round Thursday, while No. 27 Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania lost.

Murray, who is still looking for his first Grand Slam title after losing in three finals, beat Simone Bolelli of Italy 7-6, 6-4, 7-5.

The fifth-seeded Soderling beat Spanish qualifier Albert Ramos 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

"A win in straight sets is always good," the Swede said.

Also, No. 16 Fernando Verdasco of Spain won, but No. 20 Florian Mayer of Germany lost to Alejandro Falla of Colombia and No. 24 Sam Querrey of the United States lost to Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia.

lanky Baroda pacer can trouble any batsman with his nagging line and length, a preview of which was visible during his man of the match effort of 3-27 on Wednesday.

RCB, on the other hand, have no time to dwell on their six-wicket loss to Chennai in the first qualifier on Tuesday.

With a second chance in hand, the Daniel Vettori-led side will have to get their acts together soon, especially in their bowling unit if they wish to spoil Mumbai's party on Friday.

In Gayle, Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Luke Poppersbach and Saurabh Tiwary, RCB have a formidable line-up.

Gayle has been RCB's top performer with the bat and tops the list of run-scorers with 519 runs from 10 games, followed by Kohli (514 off 14) and Tendulkar (513 off 15).

RCB's batting prowess can be gauged from the fact that despite Gayle's early dismissal against Chennai, they scored 175 for four with Kohli starring with an unbeaten 70.

However, bowling remains RCB's top priority after conceding 58 in the last four against Chennai the other day.

Bangalore have only two world-class bowlers in Zaheer Khan and skipper Vettori, who is suffering from a knee injury and was lacklustre in the last match, conceding 42 runs of his 32 overs, including 12 off the last over.

## Sania falls to a Pole

PTI, Paris

Sania Mirza failed to break the second round jinx at the French Open as she crashed out of the tournament with a straight-set defeat against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the women's singles event here on Thursday.

The Indian lost 2-6, 4-6 to 12th-seeded Radwanska in a one hour and 16 minutes contest at the Roland Garros.

It was always going to be tough for World No. 72 Sania as she committed 42 unforced errors as compared to her opponent's 18. Sania though hit more winners than Radwanska.

The Polish player completely dominated the proceeding to run away with the first set 6-2.

In the second set, Sania, who does not like clay court surface, lifted herself but Radwanska proved to be too strong for her.

### Easy win

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comfortable eight-wicket victory against Gulshan Youth Club.

The match was delayed due to a wet outfield following overnight rain and was fixed at a 20-over-a-side affair. Gulshan Youth were bundled out for 31 runs in 14.3 overs and Mohammad, in reply, reached the target of 32 losing two wickets in 4.1 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, BKSP thrashed on two half centuries from Sharmin Akter and Farzana Haque to secure a seven-wicket victory over Azad Sporting Club.

Sharmin scored 50 and Farzana was not out on 72 as BKSP made 161 for three in 31.1 overs in reply to Azad's 160 for eight in 40 overs.

Sathira Jakir hit 74 for Azad.

### Argentina's

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National Stadium and its dressing room at the end of June for the Argentina-Nigeria friendly match on September 6.

### Murshedy

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on Wednesday and Salam Murshedy bought a nomination for the latter panel.

It's been learnt that organizers like Badal Roy, Anwarul Haq Helal, Mahbub Anam, Salam Murshedy withdrew their supports from the Falu panel to extend it towards the Lokman panel.

There is a whisper of forming compromised panel but Lokman told reporters that the election would bring accountability among directors.

### Title race

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are confident of averting relegation as we have four home matches out of five. Besides, the boys have been really playing good football since the start of the second leg," said Yousuf over the phone.

At the BNS, Farashganj dominated the show against visitors Chittagong Mohammadi but they could not break the deadlock despite creating a couple of scoring opportunities.

Farashganj should have taken a lead as early as the fourth minute when Sajid Islam Santo, instead of taking shot at the target released it for unmarked hitman Sohel Rana, but the promising striker failed to receive the ball in front of the open net and the chance went wobbling.

Farashganj were again deprived of a certain goal when Amadi Moses from a set-piece just outside the box rattled the crosspiece in the 65th minute.

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## Sourav lands in trouble

Cricket

AGENCIES, New Delhi

In a setback to Sourav Ganguly, the Supreme Court of India on Thursday quashed the allotment of a 63-katha land to the former India cricket captain in Kolkata.

The apex court decision also comes as a big blow to the Left Front as the plot had been allotted by its government in West Bengal in 2000. Ganguly was allotted the land in Salt Lake area from discretionary quota to set up an international school with focus on sports.

In its order, the SC bench of Justice GS Singhvi and Justice AK Ganguly found the allotment of the land, made in the upscale area, illegal and in violation of the Urban Land Ceiling Act. It directed Ganguly to surrender the plot within two weeks. The court also directed the state government to

refund the entire amount to Ganguly within two weeks of getting back possession of the plot. It was alleged that the land worth 44.9 crore rupees was allotted for just 63 lakh rupees. It was allotted in just around one month after getting the application.

At a previous hearing, the apex court had even taken the state government to task for sending its officials to the cricketer's residence to facilitate paperwork for the transfer of land.

The SC bench also observed that replacing a plot handed over to a part with a bigger one was "substantial change" for which fresh applications from other parties should also have been invited.

Ganguly had initially been allotted a 48-katha plot to set up an ICSE affiliated school. Since the rules of the Delhi-based board demanded a larger plot, the cricketer was allotted a bigger piece of land in a different location.

The court passed the order on a petition filed by a West Bengal-based NGO, Humanity and others, challenging the Kolkata High Court's order which had upheld the state government's decision of allotting the land to Ganguly.

The NGO had alleged that the land was illegally allotted to Ganguly as it was earmarked for a college. The state government had accommodated Ganguly's request without amending the master plan, the NGO had alleged.

The NGO had submitted that the state government violated all norms and procedures while allotting the prime land to the former India captain.

The Kolkata High Court had in April last year upheld the land allotment observing in its order that there was no arbitrariness in the state government's action of allotting the land to Ganguly.

The court also rejected Ganguly's plea that he was being targeted because of his statue in society.

## Gambhir out for 6 weeks?

Cricket

CRICINFO, Mumbai

Gautam Gambhir could miss the limited-overs leg of India's tour of the West Indies next month following the aggravation of a shoulder injury that was sustained during the World Cup final.

Gambhir, named India's captain for that part of the tour, has been advised four to six weeks' rest by Andrew Leipus, the Kolkata Knight Riders trainer, and could even miss the subsequent tour of England.

If it comes to pass, Gambhir's absence will leave India without their three best specialist openers -- Virender Sehwag has recently undergone shoulder surgery and Sachin Tendulkar has been rested for the short-format games. It will also fuel the debate over the importance given to the Indian Premier League vis-a-vis international cricket, and -- given that Sehwag also played through the IPL with his injury -- raise questions over the responsibility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the IPL franchises and the players.

Gambhir played the IPL Eliminator on Wednesday, the same day Leipus wrote to the BCCI. However, Kolkata's loss to Mumbai Indians has saved Gambhir and the franchise from having to decide on his further participation in the tournament.

In his letter, addressed to BCCI secretary N Srinivasan, Leipus -- a former India physio -- said the player felt acute pain in his right shoulder while landing on it in the field at one

point during the World Cup final against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium on April 2. Subsequent scans have now revealed a serious injury that would require him to avoid throwing or batting for four to six weeks.

"Gautam arrived in Kolkata at the start of the IPL complaining of a 'sore shoulder', the onset of which occurred during the World Cup final," Leipus's letter said. "He clearly recollects a fielding incident where he landed on an outstretched arm and felt a catch deep in the shoulder. In the euphoria at the time, his attention was deservedly elsewhere and he didn't bother telling anyone about it."

Leipus's note to the BCCI also mentioned a chronic groin injury Gambhir has been carrying for two years and suggested the player underwent rehab for both the shoulder and groin problems simultaneously but stressed that he needed "active" and "daily" attention. "Both injuries are chronic and ideally require time away from the stresses of international cricket in order for them to settle and rehabilitate properly. I emphasise, however, that such rehabilitation is active ... he would require almost daily professional supervision in order to provide both hands-on manual treatment in addition to the rehabilitation programme."

Gambhir, he said, informed him of the shoulder pain when he arrived to play the IPL. "His initial complaints were pain in the shoulder and significant reduction of power in his throw.

The clinical findings supported the mechanism of the onset of the acute injury, however, he did report having corticosteroid injections on two occasions over the previous few years," Leipus stated in his report, a copy of which is available with ESPNcricinfo. "Knowledge of this history leads me to suspect that any internal derangement may have been pre-existing and this recent incident [World Cup final] only served to aggravate or progress the injury [i.e. acute on chronic]," Leipus wrote.

Accordingly, Leipus said, he initiated a plan for management and rehabilitation, post which Gambhir only reported pain "intermittently". But during Kolkata's final group match at Eden Gardens on May 22, against Mumbai Indians, Gambhir winced in pain immediately after sending back a throw to the wicketkeeper from the deep. Leipus confirmed that the throw had "aggravated" the pain. The team then travelled for the Eliminator to Mumbai, where Gambhir consulted a prominent Mumbai-based surgeon and had an MRI scan taken.

"Both the doctor and myself believe that he should follow an intensive, supervised and conservative rehabilitation pathway. But for the best outcome, he will need to avoid both throwing and batting for a period of 4-6 weeks. In this regard I would expect that the BCCI medical committee would need to consider the ongoing management of Gautam's shoulder injury beyond the IPL and the possibility of his missing any immediate future tours until the shoulder is fully rehabilitated," Leipus said.

If Gambhir does indeed sit out that tour, Suresh Raina, appointed vice-captain, is likely to take over the leadership role.

China, Thailand

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Men En and Liu Gaoyang to celebrate the title.

Sangpao of Thailand beat Liu Xin 3-2, Lin Gaoyang of China beat Pannak Piyaporn 3-0, R. Rattanaporn of Thailand beat Sun Meng En 3-0, Lin Gaoyang of China beat Sangpao Areeya(THA) 3-1 while Pannak Piyaporn of Thailand beat Lin Xin 3-0.

### IPL stint was interesting

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