



Matt Prior heaves across the line during his century against Sri Lanka on the second day of the second Test at Lord's yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Solid start for SL

## Cricket

AFP, London

Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne Dilshan helped deny England a breakthrough as the tourists tried to put their series-opening batting collapse behind them at Lord's.

Sri Lanka were 101 without loss in reply to England's first innings 486, a deficit of 385, at tea on the second day of the second Test here on Saturday.

Dilshan was 54 not out and fellow opener Tharanga Paranavitana 32 not out.

It was all a far cry from Monday's collapse in Cardiff where Sri Lanka were dismissed for just 82 as England won the first Test by an innings and 14 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

England missed a chance to separate the openers when, with the score on 37, left-hander Paranavitana, on 13, edged fast bowler Steven Finn, recalled in place of the injured James Anderson, to Alastair Cook at third slip.

But Cook, fielding in the spot vacated by the retired Paul Collingwood, failed to hold the chance despite getting both hands to the ball.

Dilshan, meanwhile, played his natural free-scoring game, hooking Chris Tremlett, one of England's trio of 6ft 5in plus seamers, for six on his way to a 58-ball fifty as Paranavitana dropped anchor.

Earlier, England were bowled out for 486 on the stroke of lunch, with wicketkeeper Matt Prior making 126 -- his fourth Test hundred.

Prior, together with Stuart Broad, who made an elegant 54, took a toll of Sri Lanka's attack during a seventh-wicket stand of 108 in 91 balls.

England, who had slumped to 22 for three

after losing the toss Friday, resumed on 342 for six after Cook (96) and Eoin Morgan (79) had both fallen short of a hundred.

Prior was 73 not out overnight and Broad, offering good support, 17 not out.

However, Prior went from 86 to 94 with two fortunate fours, edging seamer Suranga Lakmal just short of wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene and next ball nicking him through the slips.

Prior, on 94, then saw an edged drive off left-arm seamer Chanaka Welegedara dropped by normally reliable second slip Mahela Jayawardene.

Broad then completed a 47-ball fifty with his ninth four before Prior's luck held again when he went to 99 by edging a cut off Lakmal between keeper and first slip for four.

A quick single took Prior through to a century off 107 balls with 17 fours.

It was Prior's second Test century at Lord's, following his 126 not out against the West Indies on his Test debut in 2007.

Broad, primarily a fast-medium bowler but also a left-handed batsman, like his father Chris, the ex-England opener, was eventually plumb to Welegedara.

The persevering bowler finished with four for 122 in 28 overs having been recalled after missing the first Test.

Prior then fell to left-arm spinner Rangana Herath's third ball Saturday, bowled on the slog-sweep, having once again provided England with valuable and quick runs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 486 (Prior 126, Cook 96, Morgan 79, Broad 54, Bell 52; Welegedara 4-122, Lakmal 3-126, Herath 2-64)

SRI LANKA: First innings 101 without loss (Dilshan 54 not out, Paranavitana 32 not out)

## IT'S NADAL V FEDERER

# Another dream finale

AFP, Paris



Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, with a staggering 25 Grand Slam titles between them, meet in their fourth French Open final in six years on Sunday with both men anticipating another epic Roland Garros clash.

Five-time champion Nadal needs one more title to equal the Paris record set by Bjorn Borg.

It would also allow him to hang on to his world number one ranking which had been threatened by Novak Djokovic until Federer ended the Serb's 43-match winning run in their breathtaking semifinal.

Victory for Federer would take his personal Grand Slam collection to 17 and deliver a perfectly-timed response to those who had written him off as a major contender.

The great Swiss rammed his critics' words firmly down their throats with his 7-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 defeat of Djokovic in a semifinal already being talked about as one of the great Grand Slam clashes.

Federer, however, knows that the hard work is still to come, trying to halt top seed Nadal whose 6-4, 7-5, 6-4 semifinal win over Andy Murray took his record in Paris to 44 victories against one defeat since his 2005 debut.

The Spaniard won their three previous Paris final meetings in 2006, 2007 and 2008 with the last encounter proving a bruising experience for Federer who claimed just four games.

"We played a great match in Madrid this year [where Federer won the first set of their semifinal before losing in three sets], so obviously I've got my hands full with him now," said Federer ahead of the pair's 25th career meeting.

"Whoever thinks it's going to be a walk in the park is wrong. Everybody knows how many times he's gotten me here in Paris. But I have another opportunity to beat Rafa and get the French Open title.

"I've got to play some extraordinarily special tennis. I'm aware of that."

Federer, who won his only French

Open in 2009 to complete the career Grand Slam, has played without pressure or expectation over the last two weeks, freed from the spotlight trained firmly on Nadal and Djokovic.

His failure to reach a Grand Slam final since his 2010 Australian Open victory had also lowered people's expectations if not his own.

"I haven't disappeared since," said Federer. "I think I've played some great matches since and I made some sacrifices. I wasn't lying on the beach.

"So I'm pretty happy that I made that effort over the years, and that when it really counts I'm at the big occasion.

"It always seems to me that Rafa needs to be in a French Open final to make it special, and I got the match I guess I was hoping for. After beating Novak, it's in a way a gift that I get the chance, and I'm looking forward to it."

Nadal too had come into the French Open under a cloud.

He lost his Madrid and Rome claycourt titles to Djokovic and his first round struggles, where he needed five sets to defeat America's

John Isner, suggested that the relentless squeeze being applied by the Serb was taking its toll.

When Nadal, who only turned 25 on Friday, complained that he felt he had been playing for 100 years, many took that as a sign that the top seed had virtually ceded his position to Djokovic.

"This is something that people dream of, reaching the final. I'm really happy to be playing the final for one of the most important tournaments in the world on clay, so I have all the reasons to be satisfied," said Nadal.

"I've had to overcome very difficult situations in the past one and a half weeks. But I had to forget the fears I had and now I have gained more confidence."

Nadal insists that he is not concerned about equalling Borg's record of six Roland Garros titles.

"Seriously, I don't think about that. I have a lot of respect for the great Bjorn, but I am focussing on trying to play well. For me, it's much more important to win Roland Garros than equal Bjorn."

## 1-match ban on Sk Russel coach

SPORTS REPORTER

The coach of Sheikh Russel Kriya Chakra Mahmudul Haque Liton has been slapped with a one-match 'stadium ban' for his unruly behaviour during their last Bangladesh League match against Feni Soccer Club.

Liton threw a water bottle at the ground during Sheikh Russel's away match at the Shaheed Abdus Salam Stadium on May 29. The decision was taken at a disciplinary committee meeting of the Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

The ruling means Liton will not be allowed in the dugout or dressing room for tonight's crucial match against Sheikh Jamal Sporting Club.

## No headway

FROM PAGE 16

After the meeting BCB's president Mustafa Kamal, who had informed reporters on Wednesday that they were going to take a final decision about the national coach at the meeting, said yesterday that the board has made offers and are waiting for the feedback from the applicants.

He also said that from now on they will not disclose any applicant's name.

The meeting also discussed the decentralisation of the game and Kamal said that a decision will be made in the next AGM regarding the formation of the regional cricket associations. It was decided that the next two board meetings will be held in Sylhet and Rajshahi respectively.

Another outcome of the meeting has been the decision to form an independent committee to run the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). BCB vice-president Ahmed Sajjad Alam has been given the responsibility to organize the T20 competition similar to the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The board also reiterated their stance of going for legal action against Nimbus to materialise the dues owed by the broadcast corporation.

# So close, yet so far

AFP, Paris



Novak Djokovic said he knew his 43-match winning run would have to end, but insisted that his heart-breaking French Open semifinal defeat to a rejuvenated Roger Federer will make him stronger.

Djokovic suffered a stunning 7-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 loss to Federer which ended his hopes of making a first Roland Garros final and temporarily halted his bid to snatch the world number one spot.

But the 24-year-old world number two was adamant he will learn vital lessons from the semifinal which ended in the Paris gloom after three and half hours of gripping action.

"It was a great tournament. It was the best five months of my life and my tennis career. I cannot complain. It was definitely an incredible period. It had to end somewhere. I knew it was coming," said Djokovic.

"Unfortunately, it came in the bad moment. It was a big match today. But that's sport. I will keep on working hard."

Defeat also left Djokovic one win short of matching John McEnroe's 1984 mark of a 42-match winning start to a season.

Federer dominated the crucial parts of the semifinal.

He served 18 aces, the last of which secured him victory on a third match point, and carved out 25 break point opportunities as Djokovic was forced constantly on the

defensive.

But he came agonisingly close to stretching the tie into a fifth set when he broke to lead 5-4 in the fourth set and had the chance to serve it out before Federer took the tie break.

"He played an incredible match today, and all the credit to him," said Djokovic of a player he had defeated three times already in 2011.

"He went for the shots when he needed to. He served really well when he needed to serve well. But what happened, happened. I cannot affect it anymore. In some moments I was lucky; in some moments he was lucky.

"But this is sport. A couple of points really decide the winner, especially at this level. I was aware of that. There's not much to be sorry for."

Federer, who will be playing in his first Grand Slam final since his 2010 Australian Open triumph gave him the last of his 16 majors, said his victory was probably his best performance of a difficult year.

"I thought it was played at a very high level for a very long time," said the Swiss.

"I really wanted to make it as physical as possible, which I was able to make happen." Djokovic, who will skip the Queens grasscourt event to rest up before Wimbledon, does have an interest in Sunday's title match between Federer and five-time champion Rafael Nadal.

A defeat for the Spaniard will make him the new world number one when the rankings are released on Monday.

## India make 159-6

AFP, Port of Spain

India made 159 for six from their allocation of 20 overs, after they were sent in to bat in their Twenty20 International against West Indies at Queen's Park Oval yesterday.

After an uncertain start in which they lost 3 wickets for 48 runs at the end of the seventh over, middle and lower order batsmen rallied to post a competitive total with Subramaniam Badrinath scored 43 while Rohit Sharma weighed in with 26, and Yusuf Pathan and Harbhajan Singh each scored a quickfire 15 to give the innings impetus at the end.

Windies captain Darren Sammy was the pick of the bowlers with 4 for 16.

## Hashan points at Sanath, Aravinda

ANI, Colombo

Ex-Sri Lanka captain Hashan Tillakaratne has reportedly alleged that two former senior Lankan cricketers -- Aravinda de Silva and Sanath Jayasuriya -- and former Sri Lanka Cricket Board president Thilanga Sumathipala were involved in fixing international matches.

Hashan met Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and disclosed to him many details about the cricketing scene in the country that have not yet been revealed, Lanka News Web reports.

# Tiger still the richest

AFP, New York

Tiger Woods, who has fallen to 13th in the world golf rankings without a title since November of 2009, remains atop the list of the world's highest-paid athletes according to Forbes magazine.

While Woods has seen his annual earnings plunge 50 million dollars over the past two years, he remained atop the Top 50 list with 75 million dollars over the past 12 months to outpace NBA star Kobe Bryant, the runner-up at 53 million dollars.

The list considers not only player salaries but all endorsement and sponsor income, with Woods having become the first career 1-billion-dollar sports pitchman before his epic fall from grace when a sordid sex scandal was revealed in 2009.

Woods lost such sponsors as Accenture, AT&T, Gillette and PepsiCo but retained Nike and EA Sports, who together bring more than half of Woods' income over the 12-month period ending May 1.

The golf videogame bearing his name was a big seller this year as it was the first of its kind to feature Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters.

Woods was the catalyst for a Nike Golf division that had sales of 638 million dollars last year while the 14th edition of the Woods videogame had record first-week sales of 225,000 units.

The drop by Woods and lack of a fight by boxer Floyd Mayweather, last year's No. 2 on

the list with 65 million dollars, led a drop of 11 percent by the combined list to a total income of 1.4 billion dollars.

Another factor was an NFL lockout that kept new deals from being signed last March and April for American football star free agents. Tom Brady of the New England Patriots led three gridiron stars on the 2011 list at 31 million dollars.

Bryant tops 15 basketball players on the Forbes list, with his 24.8-million-dollar salary topping any NBA rival by 4 million dollars.

LeBron James, playing in the NBA Finals with the Miami Heat, ranks third on the list with 48 million dollars.

The only woman on the list was Maria Sharapova, who was ranked 29th with 24.2 million dollars, in large part thanks to apparel deals with Nike and Cole Haan shoes.

Swiss tennis star Roger Federer was fourth on the list at 47 million dollars followed in order by US golfer Phil Mickelson at 46.5 million dollars, English footballer David Beckham at 40 million dollars, football's Cristiano Ronaldo at 38 million dollars, US baseball star Alex Rodriguez at 35 million dollars, German auto racer Michael Schumacher at 34 million dollars and football's Lionel Messi at 32.3 million dollars.

At the bottom of the list of the richest were two NBA stars, Spanish playmaker Pau Gasol of the Lakers in 49th at 18.9 million dollars, a mere 100,000 above American Michael Redd of the Milwaukee Bucks.

The minimum to make last year's list was 21 million dollars.

## New selectors

FROM PAGE 16 this positively and it will help me. I won't have to rely on statistics because I know them very well," he said.

The day was also the start of the camp which was attended by all the players except for skipper Shakib Al Hasan (county stint), Tamim Iqbal, Shafiqul Islam (heel) and Zunaed Siddiqui.

The cricketers will be given a break today due to the general strike, returning to training on Monday.

## Li makes history

FROM PAGE 16

Li then held serve three consecutive times to take the first set 6-4 in 39 minutes and she looked in total charge of the final going into the second set.

She earned three more break points as Schiavone struggled to contain her weight of shot and the Chinese player let out a shout of triumph as she converted the final one of those.

Schiavone badly needed to find an answer to her opponent's domination and by throwing in some more variety in the next game she crafted her first break point of the final in the next game.

Li though swatted that aside with a big first serve and then confidently moved out into a 2-0 lead.

Another netted drop shot gave Li a further

break point in the fifth game, but with the court wide open the sixth seed blasted a shoulder-high forehand into the net with a 4-1 lead on offer.

Li was proving steady as a rock on her own serve as she comfortably held for 4-2 and she saw another break point against Schiavone go astray in the next game.

The missed opportunities immediately came back to haunt her as she flung in three unforced errors when serving for a 5-3 lead and Schiavone pounced to secure her first service break of the match.

Both players then held serve twice to force the tie-break.

Li dominated that from the start, sweeping it 7-0, to gleefully write her name into the record books.

# CA to test twilight ties

## Cricket

PTI, Melbourne

Cricket Australia (CA) will consider organising a few Sheffield Shield games at twilight next summer with the traditional red ball instead of the pink one being trialled by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"The move is a response to the ICC cricket committee's recent request for nations to stage trials at first-class level in the quest to

eventually rejuvenate Tests by staging them under lights," the Age reported.

CA's cricket operations man Geoff Allardice will work out the schedule of these matches.

"We are very conscious of the ICC Cricket Committee suggestion that they would like to see some trials at first-class level in different parts of the world and we have always been very keen on trying to play cricket at times when people want to watch it," a CA spokesman said.

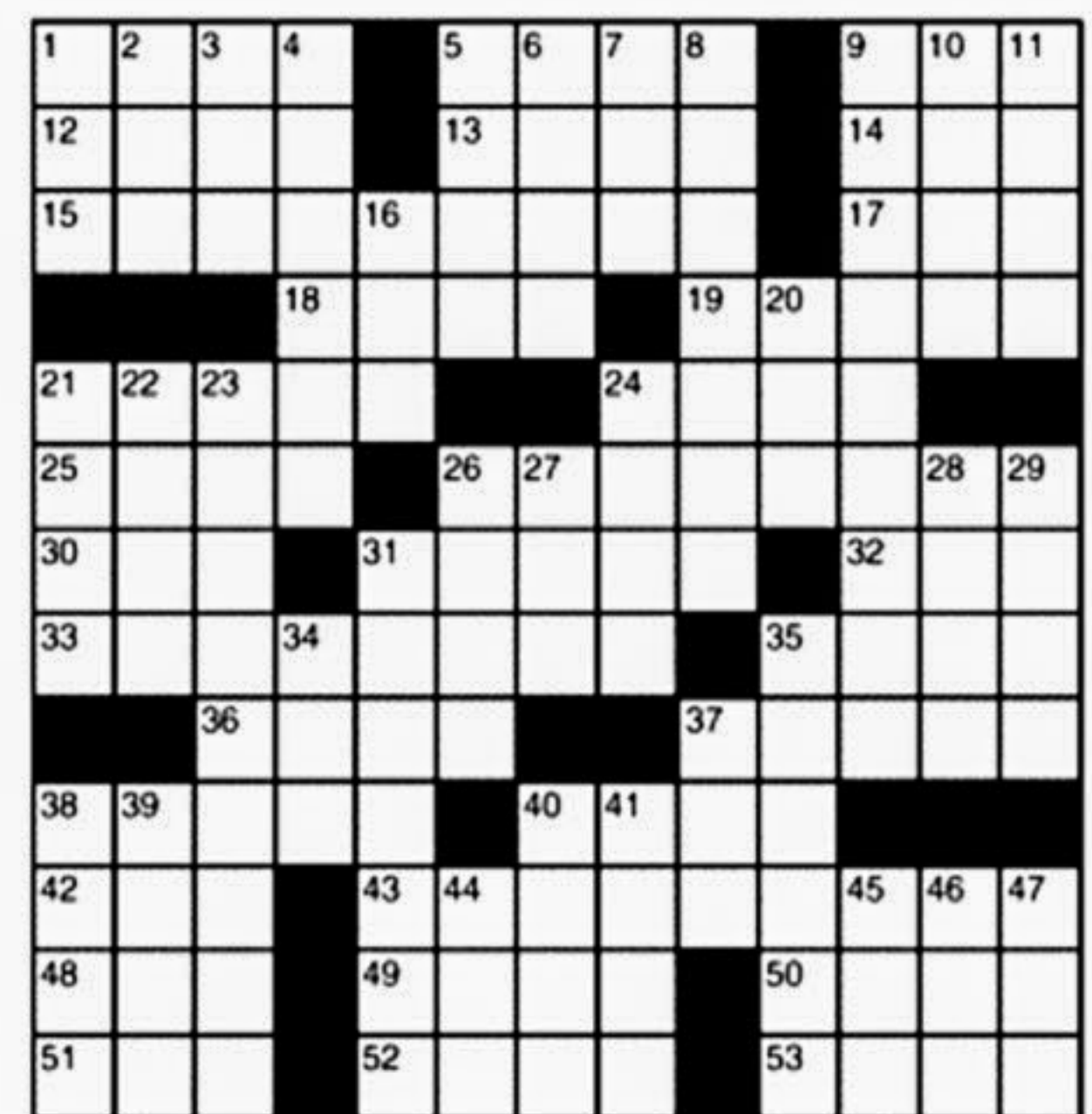
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Loony  
5 Actress  
9 "That's a laugh!"  
12 Reed instrument  
13 Black, in poetry  
14 Hearty brew  
15 Mouth organ  
17 Tier  
18 Asset  
19 Physician of ancient Greece  
21 Was sore  
24 Great Lake  
25 Carson predecessor  
26 "All Quiet on the Western Front" author  
30 Blunder  
31 Automaton  
32 "Born in the —"  
33 Suave

35 Hastened  
36 Terrible guy?  
37 Gives temporarily  
38 Dr. Salk  
40 Entrance  
42 Early bird?  
43 Teen sibs of whodunit fame  
48 Before  
49 Did surveillance on  
50 Touch  
51 Apiece  
52 Stitches  
53 Viscous

2 Lawyers' org.  
3 Supporting  
4 Composure  
5 Options list  
6 Wading bird  
7 Sinbad's bird  
8 Turn of phrase?  
9 Pantomime jester  
10 Lotion additive  
11 Chopped  
16 Anti-quoted  
20 Melody  
21 Mimicked  
22 Give a darn  
23 Omen  
24 Like certain profs.  
26 Equine coloration  
27 Inventor Whitney  
28 Second-hand  
29 George of "CSI"  
31 Grinds one's teeth  
34 Eggs  
35 Kind of tea  
37 Myrna of Hollywood  
38 Military vehicle  
39 Shrek is one  
40 Sketched  
41 Probability  
44 Sailor's assent  
45 Japanese sash  
46 "Tasty!"  
47 Messy place



## CRYPTOQUIP

H F W H K Y F W X F X A X S T M  
 W R I J M R Z Q R S J W H N Z R I K E H K  
 K M Q C R S Y L H F C J W R I A E P M  
 L X A A M E F W M P H T L W X N M A .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE WANTS TO MAKE A BASKETBALL HIT NOTHING BUT NET, I SUPPOSE THAT'S SWISHPUL THINKING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals I