

Richardson
to be new
ICC CEO

AFP, Dubai

Former Test wicketkeeper David Richardson is set to succeed fellow South African Haroon Lorgat as the new chief executive of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the global governing body announced Thursday.

Richardson's name will go forward for approval by the ICC annual conference at its meeting in Kuala Lumpur in June 28 after being chosen by the ICC board.

He was one of four candidates, believed to have included England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chief executive David Collier, who were interviewed for the post in Mumbai last weekend.

If confirmed, Richardson's appointment would be groundbreaking for two reasons: he would be the first former international cricketer to hold the post of ICC chief executive since its creation in 1993 and the first to be already working for world cricket's governing body.

Johannesburg-born Richardson, 52, a qualified lawyer, has been the ICC's general manager for cricket for the last 10 years having previously represented South Africa in 42 Tests and 122 one-day internationals.

"It is a great honour to be nominated to be chief executive of the ICC," Richardson said in a statement issued from its Dubai headquarters. "I am delighted with this opportunity and thank the ICC board for their approval.

"It has been a privilege to serve as ICC general manager-cricket, and that work will continue until such time as the ICC annual conference ratifies my nomination. I am looking forward to working closely with all the membership and stakeholders in the game."

"It is an honour to be following a fellow South African, Haroon Lorgat, in this role. I have learnt a lot under his leadership and thank him for his support in the last four years."

ICC vice-president Alan Isaac, who led the search for Lorgat's successor, said Richardson would provide "continuity".

"David Richardson was an outstanding candidate who not only had important knowledge of the ICC administration, its staff and its operations but also has unquestioned cricketing knowledge having represented his country so admirably," Isaac said.

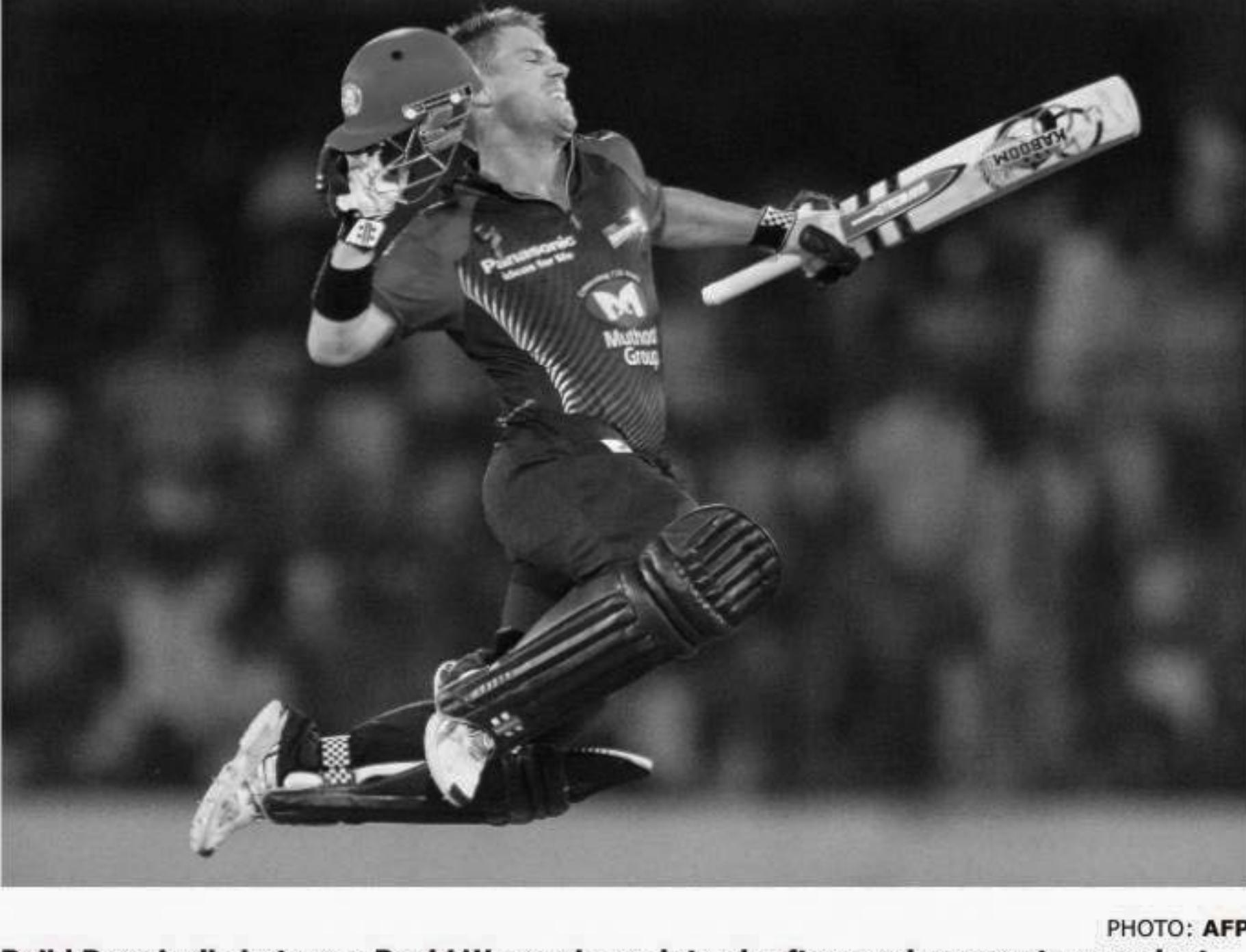


PHOTO: AFP

Delhi Daredevils batsman David Warner leaps into air after scoring a century against Deccan Chargers at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

Rafa falls at 1st hurdle

Tennis

AFP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal went down in frustration as the second seed lost his first match of the season on clay, with Spanish compatriot Fernando Verdasco triumphing 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 on Thursday in the third round of the Madrid Masters.

"I never was in control of the match, I didn't know how to win a point," said Nadal, who intimated he will not show up next year unless the controversial blue clay surface he abhors is modified.

Nadal's perfect record on the dirt for 2012 was marred as Madrid native Verdasco clawed out the opening set to stun multiple Monte Carlo and Barcelona champion Nadal, who, though he dug out the second set, succumbed in the decider.

Verdasco lost the second set as Nadal found his rhythm, but the 15th-seeded challenger rallied from 1-4 down in the third to work his upset miracle, winning his first match over the

king of clay from 14 attempts.

The final set was littered with seven breaks of serve, with a nervous Nadal well off his game and expressing inward and outward frustration with the surface which has drawn his ire for weeks.

Elsewhere, Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych ended the injury comeback effort of Frenchman Gael Monfils, the number 12, with a comprehensive 6-1, 6-1 victory.

Estoril champion Juan Martin del Potro, the tenth seed, beat Croatian Marin Cilic 6-2, 6-4.

In women's play, Serena Williams staged a recovery at the expense of Caroline Wozniacki as the American reached the quarterfinals 1-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The comeback win in 1hr 42min put Williams into a showdown with second seed Maria Sharapova, who earned her last-eight place when opponent Lucie Safarova withdrew before their match with stomach illness.

Polish fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska advanced over Italy's Roberta Vinci 7-6 (7/1), 6-4 while Lucie Hradecka beat Elena Makarova of Russia 6-2, 7-6 (7/5).

SLPL over Aug 10-31

SLC names 7 participating teams

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka will host a Twenty20 tournament in August in an attempt to emulate the success of the highly popular Indian Premier League (IPL), the island's cricket authorities announced on Thursday.

The Sri Lanka Premier League (SLPL) will be played in Colombo and Pallekele from August 10 to 31 and will feature yet-to-be-named world players, the board said in a statement.

"Twenty20's massive popularity and status as the most exciting and entertaining format of cricket will be further enhanced by this newest tournament to the world of cricket," Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said.

"International players will be playing in the SLPL alongside Sri Lankan national cricketers and young Sri Lankan hopefuls."

The 24-match tournament will take place a few weeks before the World Twenty20 opens in Sri Lanka on September 18.

The SLPL was scheduled to be held in July last year but

was put off due to what the organisers said was the unavailability of India's top players who were on a tour of England in that period.

The tournament will feature seven provincial teams, each having six overseas players in their squad but with a provision that only four can be fielded in a playing XI.

All matches will be telecast live, the SLC said, adding the names of the participating cricketers and how they will be allotted to the seven teams will be announced later.

The teams have been named Basnahira Bears, Kandurata Kites, Nagenahira Nagas, Ruhuna Rhinos, Uthura Oryxes, Uva Unicorns and the Wayamba Wolves, the SLC said.

Farashganj

FROM PAGE 16

Farashganj goalkeeper Sultan Ahmed Shakil was also valiant under the bar as he foiled a close-range effort from Muktiyoddha's Nasir Chowdhury just a minute before the breather.

A minute into the second half, Chindo almost found the back of the Muktiyoddha net, but as he approached the penalty box, the Nigerain lost his control and the chance went begging.

However he made amends and scored the decisive goal for Farashganj seven minutes before the end. Availing a straight goal-kick, he advanced into the opposition box before shrugging off his marker Ariful Islam and struck a low-drive past goalkeeper Mustak to mark his debut with a match-winning goal.

Muktiyoddha piled up some pressure after going down and came close to equalising the margin twice but they were denied by defender Shawkat Russel and then goalkeeper Shakil in the stoppage time of the second half.

Both the matches started with a minute's silence in remembrance of legendary footballer Chinghla Mong Chowdhury Mari who passed away on Wednesday.

সমাজিত কুমার সাহা, যুবহাস্পক
টেলিকম এন্ড আর্টিউইচ বিভাগ-১, পিজিসিৰি
এনএলডিসি ভবন, আফতাবনগর, ঢাকা।
সমাজিত কুমার সাহা, যুবহাস্পক
টেলিকম এন্ড আর্টিউইচ বিভাগ-১, পিজিসিৰি
এনএলডিসি ভবন, আফতাবনগর, ঢাকা।

Warner whacks Deccan

PTI, Hyderabad

David Warner blasted his way to an unbeaten 54-ball 109 as he steered Delhi Daredevils to a crushing nine-wicket win over laggards Deccan Chargers in a one-sided Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

Playing only in his second match this season, Warner smashed 10 fours and seven sixes in his explosive knock to help Delhi chase down a stiff target of 188 with 20 balls to spare at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium at Uppal.

The Australian dynamo shared a massive 189-run partnership for the unbroken second wicket with Naman Ojha (64 not out) as the duo sent the Deccan bowlers on a leatherhurt.

Ojha turned out to be the ideal ally for Warner as he rotated the strike with his partner initially by scoring in singles before hitting some lusty blows later in his 46-ball knock, which was studded with two fours and five sixes.

With the win on Thursday, Delhi once again jumped to the top of the table and are virtually assured of a play-off berth with 18 points from 12 matches.

SCORES IN BRIEF

DECCAN CHARGERS: 187 for 4 (Dhawan 84, White 65, Harris 19; Aaron 20-3)

DELHI DAREDEVILS: 193 for 1 (Warner 109*, Ojha 64*)

Result: Delhi Daredevils won by 9 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: David Warner.

Sammy rested for Lions tie

AFP, London

West Indies captain Darren Sammy was surprisingly left out of the side for Thursday's match against the England Lions, the tourists' final match before next week's first Test at Lord's.

Sammy, who has not batted or bowled on tour yet thanks to the rain which reduced the Windies' opening three-day tour match to just 34 overs at Howe, has no injury.

But a team spokesman said the all-rounder would not be playing in this four-day fixture at Northampton, with the West Indies led instead by vice-captain Kirk Edwards.

The West Indies are now at full-strength following the arrival of all-rounder Narsingh Deonarine, one of three squad members who encountered travel problems that delayed their journey to England.

Fast bowler Fidel Edwards was fit after his back "niggle".

Heavy overnight rain delayed the start at Wantage Road but the match was rescheduled to get underway at 12pm local time (1100GMT).

Earlier, Chennai produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Rajasthan to 126 for six.

Sent into bat, Ben Hilfenhaus produced a stunning opening spell to dent Rajasthan's prospects at the start.

Hilfenhaus scalped two vital wickets of Rajasthan skipper Rahul Dravid and Watson early during his breathtaking opening spell of four overs which yielded just eight runs.

In-form Rahane too perished soon in search of quick runs, again caught by Ravichandran Ashwin off Yo Mahesh as Rajasthan slipped to 43 for three in the ninth over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 126 for 6 in 20 overs (Hodge 33, Binny 27, Rahane 17; Hilfenhaus 2-8, Mahesh 2-21)

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 127 for 6 in 18.1 overs (Raina 23, Hussey 19, Morkel 18 not out, Anirudha 18 not out; Trivedi 2-18, Pankaj 2-34)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 4 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Ben Hilfenhaus.

Law change looms for switch hits

Cricket

CRICINFO, Dubai

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is to review the playing condition regarding lbw decisions in international cricket in response to the emergence of the switch hit.

ESPNcricinfo understands that the ICC cricket committee, a group that includes Ian Bishop, Kumar Sangakkara and Mark Taylor, is to consider amending the playing condition whereby a batsman attempting to play the shot cannot be given out lbw if the ball has pitched outside the leg stump.

The news, first mentioned in passing in the *Guardian*, will mean that any right-handed batsman who switches his stance or grip to effectively play as a left-hander, will be able to be given out even if the ball had pitched outside the leg stump and vice-versa.

Bowlers will also be allowed more leeway as regards leg side wides in limited-overs cricket. The cricket committee meets in Dubai later this month.

While any recommendations cannot come into force until they are ratified by the ICC board and the ICC's chief executives' committee, it is unlikely that the cricket committee's proposals would be ignored. The decision will not affect the laws of the game, which are governed by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), leading to

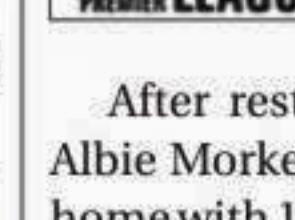
the possibility that playing conditions in first-class cricket around the world will differ from playing conditions in the international game. It is up to each national board to determine whether to adopt the ICC's playing conditions in their domestic cricket. While some boards -- including those in Sri Lanka and South Africa -- tend to default to the ICC stance, others -- such as the ECB -- are more independent minded. At present the major differences between ICC playing regulations and MCC laws concern the rules regarding the degree of flexion bowlers are allowed, the use of runners and decisions relating to the Decision Review System.

The MCC is also considering the repercussions of the more regular use of the switch hit stroke. Two members of the MCC's laws subcommittee -- Dave Richardson and John Stephenson -- also sit on the ICC Cricket Committee.

The switch hit first came to prominence in 2008 when Kevin Pietersen played it in an ODI against New Zealand in Durham. The same batsman was involved when matters came to a head in a Test in Sri Lanka recently when Tillakaratne Dilshan pulled out of his delivery stride on several occasions as Pietersen shaped to play the shot and the stand-off threatened to reach stalemate. The umpires, Asad Rauf and Bruce Oxenford, warned Pietersen for time-wasting, but the ICC is now looking for a more permanent solution.

CSK stay alive

PTI, Jaipur



Chennai Super Kings kept alive their chances of qualifying for the play-offs by eking out a four-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in a crucial Indian Premier League match here Thursday.

After restricting Rajasthan to 126 for six, CSK rode on Albie Morkel and Srikanth Anirudha's late bursts to romp home with 11 balls to spare.

However, CSK's run chase was off to a bad start as they lost wickets at regular intervals to totter at 84 for six at one stage.

Chasing a modest total, the winners were dealt an early blow when Shane Watson went through the defence of a struggling Murali Vijay in the first over.

New man in Suresh Raina (23 off 17) played a cameo before he was brilliantly caught by Ajinkya Rahane off Pankaj Singh.

Needing 30 off the last three overs, Morkel and Anirudha scored identical six-ball 18 and stitched undefeated 43 runs for the seventh wicket to guide CSK to the vital win.

Morkel and Anirudha tore apart the Australian duo of Watson and Shaun Tait to notch up the required runs in 18.1 overs.

By virtue of this win, Chennai moved up to the fourth position in the standings with 13 points from as many games, while Rajasthan have slipped to the sixth spot with 12 points from 13 games.

Earlier, Chennai produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Rajasthan to 126 for six.

Sent into bat, Ben Hilfenhaus produced a stunning opening spell to dent Rajasthan's prospects at the start.

Hilfenhaus scalped two vital wickets of Rajasthan skipper Rahul Dravid and Watson early during his breathtaking opening spell of four overs which yielded just eight runs.

In-form Rahane too perished soon in search of quick runs, again caught by Ravichandran Ashwin off Yo Mahesh as Rajasthan slipped to 43 for three in the ninth over.

SCORES IN BRIEF

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 126 for 6 in 20 overs (Hodge 33, Binny 27, Rahane 17; Hilfenhaus 2-8, Mahesh 2-21)

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 127 for 6 in 18.1 overs (Raina 23, Hussey 19, Morkel 18 not out, Anirudha 18 not out; Trivedi 2-18, Pankaj 2-34)

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by 4 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Ben Hilfenhaus.

Hafeez Pak T20 captain

AFP, Lahore</p