

মিলেছি আমরা এক বেখাতে

সংবাদ সম্মেলন

বাংলাদেশ দাবা ফেডারেশনের আসন্ন নির্বাচনে সম্মিলিত দাবা খেলোয়াড়দের প্যানেলের সমর্থনে দেশের ৫ শীর্ষ দাবাক প্রাক্ত মাস্টার নিয়াজ মোরশেদ, প্রাক্ত মাস্টার জিয়াউর রহমান, প্রাক্ত মাস্টার রিফাত-বিন-সান্তার, প্রাক্ত মাস্টার আব্দুল্লাহ-আল-রাফিক, প্রাক্ত মাস্টার এনামুল হোসেন রাজীব ও আন্তর্জাতিক মহিলা মাস্টার মিসেস রানী হামিদ আজ এক কাতারে দাঁড়িয়েছেন।  
আসুন নিয়াজ-কায়স পরিষদের সমর্থনে আমরাও তাদের পাশে দাঁড়াই।

স্থান: সি. আই. পি লাউজ, জাতীয় গেম ক্লাব

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PHOTO: STAR

Grand Master Niaz Murshed (C) addresses the media during a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

# Grasshoppers eye glory on dirt

AFP, Paris

Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova, two players better known for their hardcourt and grasscourt abilities, are the form players going into the climax of the claycourt season at the French Open.

Between them they won the four main leadup events on the surface at Charleston and Madrid for the American and at Stuttgart and Rome for the Russian.

The question is whether one of them can sustain their form through two weeks and seven matches in the often unpredictable playing conditions that are a mark at the famed Roland Garros complex on the western edge of Paris.

Williams, whose only win here came 10 years ago when she defeated sister Venus in the final, has staged yet another impressive return to form in recent weeks.

The 30-year-old defeated Lucie Safarova in the final at Charleston before pounding world number one Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 6-3 to take the Madrid Open title at the start of May.

She subsequently withdrew from the semifinals of last week's Italian Open with a lower back injury but has expressed confidence she will be fully fit to challenge for the title in Paris.

"I'm feeling better on clay than I did at the US Open [where she lost in the final to Samantha Stosur]. I have a better ranking and my fitness is better," the 13-time Grand Slam champion said.

"I just feel better this time around. I feel I can play on any surface and that's the right attitude for me. I'm enjoying my tennis. This is where I belong and what I do best."

Sharapova, at 25, is a late convert to claycourt tennis having once described her movement on the slippery red dirt surface as being "like a cow on ice".

reached the semifinals last year before losing to eventual champion Li Na and it was the Chinese player she defeated last weekend to defend her Italian Open crown in Rome.

She also chalked up a straight sets win over Azarenka in the final at Stuttgart, a win that followed losses to the Belarussian in the finals at the Australian Open and Indian Wells.

## Kenyan player implicated in fixing

AFP, Nairobi

A Kenyan player is under investigation for fixing two 2011 World Cup matches including Kenya's huge loss against Pakistan, the International Cricket Council and Kenyan officials said on Thursday.

Cricket Kenya (CK) chief executive Tom Sears said the ICC wanted to know the involvement of the player, who is yet to be named, in the irregularities during the match at Hambantota, Sri Lanka which Pakistan won by a massive 205 runs after bowling out Kenya for 112.

During the Pakistan innings Kenya's bowlers conceded a world record equalling 37 wides.

"Cricket Kenya was informed about the investigation on the player by the ICC late last year and we were told to leave him out of the list of the contracted players," said Sears.

## Lanka split teams too

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka on Thursday announced separate Twenty20 and one-day squads for the home series against Pakistan starting next month.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka will play two Twenty20 games in southern Hambantota on June 1 and 3, followed by five one-day internationals in Pallekele and Colombo from June 7 to 18.

The Sri Lankan squad for the three-Test series, starting on June 22, will be named later.

A release from the Sri Lankan board did not name a captain, but veteran Mahela Jayawardene is expected to remain at the helm.

Pakistan have already named three squads for three different formats of the game.

### SQUADS

#### T20

Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara, Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kaushal Lokurachchi, Thisara Perera, Nuwan Kulasekera, Sachithra Senanayake, Lasith Malinga, Chamara Kapugedera, Upul Tharanga, Isuru Udana.

#### ODI

Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara, Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Lahiru Thirimanne, Jeevan Mendis, Thisara Perera, Nuwan Kulasekera, Sachithra Senanayake, Lasith Malinga, Rangana Herath, Upul Tharanga, Nuwan Pradeep, Dilhara Fernando.

## Players pledge

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promote some outsiders which the speakers thought will be harmful for the country's chess.

"The players feel that it is urgent to stop those unknown persons who are not involved with the game. There are even some candidates whom I have not seen in the chess arena in the last 20 years. The fact though remains that the election will decide the fate of candidates," said vice president candidate Niaz.

"Chess is totally a technical game and the organisers must have knowledge of the game. Organising capacity is not enough to run chess -- organisers will have to maintain the international correspondence, thus technical people are needed at the federation," said general secretary candidate Khandoker Kayesh Hasan.

## Pomersbach in the clear

AFP, New Delhi

Australian cricketer Luke Pomersbach is to be cleared of accusations that he molested a woman and beat up her fiancée during the Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament in India, his lawyer said on Thursday.

Ajay Bhargava said that an out-of-court deal had been reached between the two parties and that no financial settlement was involved to end the molestation case.

"The matter has been amicably resolved," Bhargava told AFP. "It was an unfortunate incident, a bad episode and nobody wishes to take it forward."

The woman's lawyers confirmed the move, according to the Press Trust of India news agency, and the complaint will be formally withdrawn in the Delhi High Court later Thursday.

The 27-year-old woman had earlier told Indian media that Pomersbach had "tagged along" with her and her Mumbai-based fiancée and had grabbed her while they drank together in a hotel room in New Delhi.

When her fiancée asked Pomersbach to leave her alone, the player "turned around and started hitting him", she had alleged.

Pomersbach, signed up by the IPL Royal Challengers Bangalore team, denied the charges against him and was granted bail, but he faced a jail sentence if prosecuted and found guilty.

The batsman has battled depression and drug problems, and narrowly avoided a jail sentence in Australia after admitting to assaulting a police officer who was trying to arrest him for drunk-driving.

The woman is also expected to drop legal proceedings against Siddharth Mallya, the director of the Royal Challengers Bangalore team, over Twitter messages he posted after the accusations.

Mallya welcomed the withdrawal of the case, saying on Twitter he was "so glad that all charges have been dropped and Luke can return Down Under".

## 2ND TEST BETWEEN ENGLAND, WEST INDIES STARTS TODAY

# Hosts aim to extend lead

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

England will take an unbeatable lead in their three-match series against the West Indies if they win the second Test at Trent Bridge starting here on Friday.

And, after a five-wicket victory in the first Test at Lord's, few would bet against Andrew Strauss's number one ranked side going 2-0 up in Nottingham.

The West Indies did take the first Test into the fifth day and twice had England wobbling as they pursued a modest target of 191.

But England were only ever one decent partnership away from victory, which came courtesy of Alastair Cook (79) and Ian Bell (63 not out).

Well though Shivnarine Chanderpaul, officially the world's best batsman, played in scoring 87 not out and 91 at Lord's, the fact he came in with the total on 86 for three and then 36 for three was a testament to the failings of West Indies' top-order.

The likes of opener Adrian Barath, Kieran Powell and Kirk Edwards can expect their techniques to be tested again by James Anderson and Stuart Broad, man-of-the-match at Lord's with an 11-wicket haul, at a Trent Bridge ground renowned for aiding swing bowling.

West Indies have won just twice in their last 31 Tests and are without a win in 15 Tests in England, a run including 13 defeats.

They badly need someone in the top order to lend more support to Chanderpaul and Marlon Samuels, who made 86 in the second innings at Lord's.

"Shiv and Marlon are leading from the front and the younger players are taking a pattern from their book," said West Indies wicket-keeper Denesh Ramdin.

"Young Adrian Barath and Kieran Powell went into the nets and batted for a long period of time. Their confidence is still high. If they bat for a long period of time in the middle, they will get runs."

The Indian Premier League and disputes with the West Indies Cricket Board have left the tourists without the likes of star opening batsman Chris Gayle as well as Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell and Sunil Narine.

Meanwhile Ramnareh Sarwan, like Gayle a former captain, is scoring runs in county cricket for Leicestershire, while paceman Jerome Taylor is injured.

The West Indies suffered another setback when fast bowler Shannon Gabriel, who took four wickets on debut at Lord's, was subsequently ruled out of the tour with a back injury.

However Kumar Roach, who troubled England with a fiery spell on the fourth evening at Lord's, should be fit after suffering a recurrence of a long-standing ankle problem.

The present West Indies side may struggle to match the standards and all-round flair of the celebrated teams of the 1970s and 1980s.

But opening batsman Cook insisted the current attack were no pushovers.

"Kemar obviously bowled quick at times and bowled with great control. So did Fidel [Edwards], he's certainly got a lot more control than when he came over a few years ago."

Nor was Cook impressed with the view there were now few genuine fast

bowlers around in world cricket.

"I've never agreed with that argument seeing as I'm the one who has to go out and face the new ball," he said.

"It always seems to be people 90 or 100 yards away saying that. There's some fine bowlers around, none finer than our lads, who time and time again have produced the goods."

Gabriel's absence will mean at least one change for the West Indies with fit again Ravi Rampaul set to come in ahead of Tino Best, summoned from the Caribbean on Tuesday.

And they could add some much needed variety to their attack by recalling spinner Shane Shillingford.

Despite taking 10 wickets in his previous Test appearance against Australia, Shillingford was omitted at Lord's where Samuels' part-time slow bowling posed few problems.

England all-rounder Tim Bresnan may have celebrated his 12th win in as many career Test appearances at Lord's but a match return of one for 144 has left his place vulnerable to a challenge from pacemen Steven Finn and Graham Onions.

### TEAMS

**ENGLAND (from):** Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Jonathan Bairstow, Matt Prior, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Steven Finn, Graham Onions.

**WEST INDIES (from):** Darren Sammy (captain), Kirk Edwards, Adrian Barath, Darren Bravo, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Narsingh Deonarine, Fidel Edwards, Assad Fudadin, Kieran Powell, Kemar Roach, Denesh Ramdin, Ravi Rampaul, Marlon Samuels, Shane Shillingford, Tino Best.

## BCB wants only T20s

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trying to take all the precautions so that they can uplift the interest of the board and the issues which will be key in the new contract are going to be bank guarantee, allowable expenditure, material changes, level of production and the Decision Review System (DRS).

Yunus also informed that the board has approved the president's decision regarding resumption of the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket Super League which will resume on May 31 after a two-month suspension.

"After discussion with the

representatives of the six Super League clubs our president (AHM Mustafa Kamal) solved the problem and has decided that the Abahani-Victoria match will be replayed. We want to clear one thing -- it has been approved as a special case in the greater interests of the game; there is no way that it will serve as a precedent for future scenarios," explained Yunus.

He also informed that the coordinator of the CDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan) Aynul Islam Tiash will replace Iqbal Yusuf Chowdhury as member secretary of CDM.

He said that the appoint-

ment of the head coach for the national team was not discussed in the meeting.

"It was not on the agenda and that is why the board didn't discuss this issue. We will wait for three-four more days for a reply from Richard Pybus and after that we will decide on our next course of action," he said.

Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad has appointed team manager again in place of Zahid Razzak Masum for the trip of Zimbabwe where the Tigers will play a tri-nation T20 tournament. South Africa is the other team in the meet.

## KP fined over Knight rant

AFP, Nottingham

Kevin Pietersen was fined an "undisclosed sum" by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Wednesday following a Twitter attack on former England batsman Nick Knight.

Last week, England batting star Pietersen took to Twitter to question the credentials of Knight, who averaged just 23.96 in 17 Tests with one hundred, as a Test match commentator for Sky Sports.

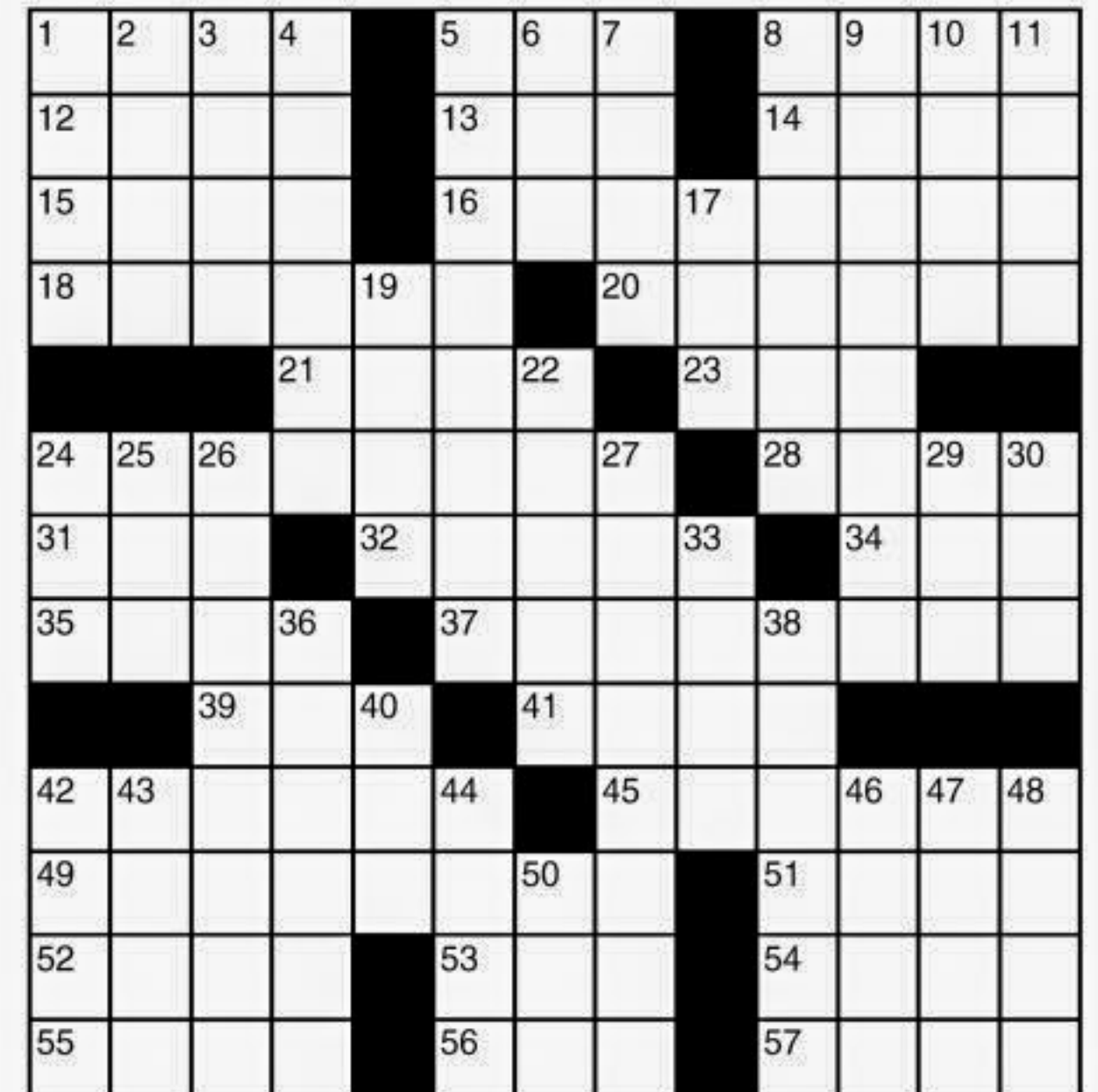
"Can someone please tell me how Nick Knight has worked his way into the commentary box for the Tests? Ridiculous," said Pietersen, who has 20 Test hundreds to his credit.

The ECB held a disciplinary hearing Wednesday, with managing director Hugh Morris and team director Andy Flower present, and opted to impose an undisclosed fine on Pietersen, part suspended for 12 months.

Pietersen's comments about Knight were especially sensitive, as Sky agreed in January a new four-year deal to show live international and county cricket believed to be worth at least 260 million pounds -- the ECB's main source of income.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spaces
  - 5 Slight touch
  - 8 South American country
  - 12 Geometric multiplication
  - 13 Individual
  - 14 Ostriches' kin
  - 15 Willing, old-style
  - 16 Bowling variation
  - 18 Wool provider from
  - 8-Across
  - 20 Examiner
  - 21 ---tat-tat
  - 23 Set of parts and tools
  - 24 Anarchist's belief
  - 28 Pinches
  - 31 Coach
  - 32 Choral composition
- DOWN**
- 1 Festive party
  - 2 Seed covering
  - 3 Chick's sound
  - 4 Jungle expedition
  - 5 Philanthropic gift
  - 6 Blackbird
  - 7 Crooked
  - 8 Stomach enzyme
  - 9 Sending out
  - 10 Mysterious letter
  - 11 Cold War country (Abbr.)
  - 17 "A mouse!"
  - 19 Serene
  - 22 Moving about
  - 24 Arrest
  - 25 A Gershwin
  - 26 Lecture
  - 27 Made of iron, e.g.
  - 29 Baked dessert
  - 30 --- Francisco
  - 33 Three-some
  - 36 Plates
  - 38 Martini garnishes
  - 40 Trench
  - 42 Formerly
  - 43 Crafty
  - 44 Staff
  - 46 Poi source
  - 47 Ireland
  - 48 Deli loaves
  - 50 Drenched
- Solution time: 24 mins.**
- |      |      |       |       |     |
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| AD   | LIB  | OS    | AG    | ES  |
| ONE  | IDA  | PAL   | ACE   |     |
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| MERE | MA   | JA    | LEE   |     |
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| GEL  | EAS  | T     | HASH  |     |
| RUL  | ING  | AP    | ACHE  |     |
| ORE  | LSE  | N     | EPHEW |     |
| WOR  | KED  | TREYS |       |     |



### CRYPTOQUIP

P B R E A F U H F Z B S I Q A O H P F H O  
P B R S P R I F H Z K M Y A A Q Z H P P  
Q H O F P , T I D K Y M I D P H M U A  
U H P H P I - K I T E H O A A O ?

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** SINCE I LIKE TAKING PICTURES OF FINGERS AND TOES, MIGHT THAT MAKE ME A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals R