

## Familiar finalists

AFP, Monte Carlo

Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal on Saturday set up their third final meeting at the Monte Carlo Masters, with the Serb top seed the last obstacle to more clay-court history for Spain's Nadal.

Nadal is one win away from a record ninth straight trophy at the Mediterranean venue and has already defeated world number one Djokovic here in 2009 and in 2012.

Djokovic had a stress-free semifinal win over Italian Fabio Fognini, crushing the outsider 6-2, 6-1 in 52 minutes.

Earlier, Nadal survived a storming comeback attempt from Jo-Wilfried Tsonga before finally holding off the sixth seed to win 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) and take his accustomed place in the final.

## Games go

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M i m u , S h e i k h Mohammad Aslam and Sabrina Sultana – by turns before they handed it over to Jummon Lusai, the legendary football and hockey player, who lit a symbolic torch on the stage in the middle, which lit up fire balls and those balls shoot themselves automatically into the big torch at the north side of the stadium. A fountain of flames overflowed the pedestal of the torch as soon as it was lit.

The cultural show consisted of a few segments including the depiction of rural Bangladesh through song and dance, the cultural heritage of the country and a theme song of the Games.

Fireworks were the order of the day. There were intermittent fireworks, of different sorts, throughout the program and at the end of it. Five minutes of nonstop fireworks, from all corners of the stadium called an end to the night of celebration. But there will be more of it, come the closing ceremony on April 28.

## Take it

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In the match Bangladesh scored 281 runs for the loss of 20 wickets. The Zimbabwe skipper scored 273 and was dismissed only once. Even after securing a 255-run first innings lead, much of it courtesy of his 171 in the first innings, he still buckled down in the second innings to become the first captain of the decade to score centuries in each innings, and the twelfth in the history of Test cricket to do so. The first innings century was fine in its own right, but the way he rescued the team from Robiul Islam-induced troubles in the second innings indicates that Taylor will not rest till the job is done.

That was the difference, as Bangladesh dropped catches in the first innings (one of them Taylor's) and their batsmen failed to apply themselves in both knocks. Taylor is a much less celebrated cricketer than some in the Bangladesh line-up, but as spectacularly proved by the Zimbabwe skipper, celebrity in these IPL times is not always a guarantee of quality, at least in Tests.



Cricketers gather to protest the delay in the start of the Dhaka Premier League and the payment issues regarding the Bangladesh Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# CSK, Bangalore victors

AGENCIES, Bangalore



Opener Chris Gayle struck an unbeaten 49 to complement an impressive display by his bowling colleagues as Royal Challengers scored an easy seven-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals in their Pepsi Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

RCB captain Virat Kohli sent the opposition in after winning the toss and his bowlers responded brilliantly by dismissing the Royals for just 117 in 19.4 overs on a Chinnaswamy track which appeared to be batting-friendly.

Pacers did most of the damage during the Royals innings as the visitors slumped to their lowest total in this season so far.

The home side stuttered for a while in their chase with three wickets falling in quick succession before overhauling the small target.

In Kolkata, a mesmerising all-round performance by Ravindra Jadeja inspired Chennai Super Kings to beat Kolkata Knight

Riders by 4 wickets at the Eden Gardens.

Chasing a 120-run target, the Super Kings seemed to lose the plot when they lost a flurry of wickets.

However, Jadeja showed his worth with a remarkable display of batting to lead his side to victory with three boundaries and as many sixes.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**RAJASTHAN:** 117 all out in 19.4 overs (Dravid 35, Binny 33, Rahane 14; Singh 3-13, Vinay Kumar 3-18, Rampaul 2-19)  
**BANGALORE:** 123 for 3 in 17.5 overs (Gayle 49 not out, Tiwary 25 not out, Dilshan 25; Watson 2-11)  
**Result:** Bangalore won by 7 wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Vinay Kumar.  
**KOLKATA:** 119 for 9 in 20 overs (Gambhir 25, Pathan 25, Das 19, Tiwary 13, Narine 13; Jadeja 3-20, Ashwin 2-21)  
**CHENNAI:** 124 for 6 in 19.1 overs (Hussey 40, Jadeja 36 not out, Ashwin 11; Pathan 1-9, Senanayake 1-18)  
**Result:** Chennai won by 4 wickets.  
**Player-of-the-match:** Ravindra Jadeja.



## GAMES CORNER

SPORTS REPORTER

Following are the results of different Bangladesh Games events that took place at different venues yesterday:

### TAEKWONDO

Pinky Khatun, Fatia Ummun Maisha Islam and Marzia Akter clinched gold medals in their respective events on the opening day of taekwondo held at the National Sports Council Gymnasium.

Pinky of Rajshahi beat Sumaia Imroz of BJMC to win gold medal in the under-46kg category while the bronze medal was shared by Nurnahar of Chittagong and Jobaida Naznin of Bandarban.

In the under-49kg category, Maisha of BJMC beat Jannatul Sultana Salma of Rajshahi to win gold while Syed Juma Reza of Comilla and Jannatul Mavia of Gazipur won bronze medals.

In the under-53kg category, Marzia of BJMC won gold medal beating Taskina Jerin Alam of Rajshahi while the bronze medal was shared by Sabrina Jahan Tanjila of Chittagong and Mousumi of Rajshahi.

### WOMEN'S HANDBALL

BJMC outplayed Rajshahi 25-5 and Ansar overwhelmed Kustia 34-1 to move into the semifinals of women's handball at the Syed Shaheed Nazrul Islam Handball Stadium.

Dhaka and Dinajpur raised hopes of their last four berths after beating Rangpur 29-4 and Noagang 10-9 respectively. They will play their group's last match against Rangamati and Panchagar respectively today.

## Happy to be here

FROM PAGE 161

Doesn't matter what the result was, I'm just happy to participate," said Nafiza Alam, a student of Rajshahi University, who was waiting for the march past outside the Bangabandhu National Stadium after being eliminated from the under-49kg category in tekowondo.

"It is the biggest sports competition of the country and I am pleased to represent my university even if it is a token participation for me," said Dhaka University's Theatrics department's Mohammad Elias, who will compete in pole vault, triple jump and long jump events.

Rugby players of Sirajganj came here to take part with just a week's preparation and they dream of becoming champions as they have been playing the game for at least three years. On the other hand, the hockey players of Patuakhali, despite having one-month's preparation, were eliminated from the group-stage. But all of them were relaxed and excited just to attend the opening ceremony.

"Though we are out of the competition, we are all staying here to enjoy the opening ceremony at our own cost," said Arif of the Patuakhali team.

Like the athletes, the spectators also came in numbers, and with enthusiasm, to witness the colourful opening ceremony. They waited for nearly an hour outside the big bowl which was almost full long before the gala ceremony started.

## London Marathon today

AFP, London

A beefed-up police presence for Sunday's London Marathon will remain in place despite the death and capture of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects, Scotland Yard said.

London's Metropolitan Police is putting 40 per cent more officers along the route than it did last year, to reinforce security and in a bid to reassure the 36,000 runners and tens of thousands of spectators.

Several hundred more officers, plus search dogs, will be deployed this year.

## DPL will be held: BCB

SPORTS REPORTER

The uncertainty with regard to this year's Dhaka Premier League (DPL) was dispelled yesterday when Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president assured local cricketers that the 50-overs competition would 'surely' take place this year.

The announcement was made after an impromptu meeting between the president and a number of local players yesterday afternoon. The meeting was a response to a protest organised by the players at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium against dilly-dallying on the league.

## Hammering

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that his teammates made seem like the 1970s Perth.

With no support before a 47-run sixth-wicket stand with Nasir Hossain, he fought for some respectability in his 105-ball 40. Shortly before the tea interval, he was beaten by a Cremer delivery, but thinking that the keeper and first slip were beaten too, he set off for a non-existent run. Taylor at first slip had gotten a hand to the ball, and the lobbed throw saw a tame end to Bangladesh's hopes, not of redemption, but a modicum of respectability. Bangladesh lasted just 7.2 overs after the tea break -- the remaining batsmen all fell in their attempt to score some quick runs before the inevitable.

The post mortem of a performance like Bangladesh's is not easily arrived at. There were the usual utterances of using the four days before the second Test and hopefully coming back strong when Mushfiq fronted up to the press. But asked for the post mortem of the massive defeat, he could not help but admit that over the four days they were nowhere near good enough.

"We were deficient in all three departments. We probably made a mistake in not playing three seamers. If we had taken the catches we dropped in the first innings, then we could probably have kept them under 250. In both innings our batting was very poor, which was very unexpected. I think our batsmen are capable of performing much better. I would say we have not even played 20 per cent of our capability," said a visibly dejected Mushfiq.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

### ACROSS

1 Jewel  
4 Appointment  
8 Con job  
12 Boxing legend  
13 Big story  
14 — Major  
15 Medieval entertainer  
17 Anger  
18 — "lazy river ..."  
19 Extreme  
21 Assault  
24 Heavy weight  
25 Hawaiian neckwear  
26 With it  
28 Complete range  
32 Exam format  
34 Illustrations  
36 Soybean paste  
37 Eastern potentate (Var.)  
39 LummoX  
41 Profit  
42 Needle-fish

### DOWN

1 Leg, slangily  
2 Yale student  
3 Little details  
4 Break off  
5 Spring mo.  
6 Layer  
7 Brilliance  
8 Older spelling for a South American country  
9 Gator's cousin  
10 Largest continent  
11 Shoppers' mecca  
16 Hot tub  
20 Pooch  
21 Lotion additive  
22 Expression  
23 Sedona auto-maker  
27 Expert  
29 Labyrinth beast  
30 Addict  
31 Carry  
33 Humorous hoax  
35 Play-ground game  
38 Aries  
40 Kin  
43 Japanese noodles  
45 Actress Ullmann  
46 Staff leader?  
47 Streaming video giant  
48 Winged  
49 1492 craft  
53 Penultimate mo.  
54 Cagers' org.  
55 Try the tea

Solution time: 25 mins.

SUB HATE LAIR  
URL EMIL ABLE  
EGO BOLLYWOOD  
RECUR YAM  
KERN WEDGE  
SHERWOOD NEON  
CAN SUMOS CIGI  
AVOW EASTWOOD  
RELIC NEAR  
EAT RYDER  
GRANTWOOD ALE  
AONE AFRO USE  
PEAR STEM BED

Friday's answer 3-14

# AFRICAN adventures

VIC FAIL

The first two days had passed sleepily, with Zimbabwe gritting their way to 389, courtesy of captain Brendan Taylor's 371. After tea on Day 2, Bangladesh raced to 95 for 1. A day of stolid batting on Day 3 was on the cards, with the expectation that the stronger team on paper would spend the day overtaking the hosts' first innings. That expectation led one sponsor representative to the natural wonders of Victoria Falls, comfortable in the knowledge that the Test would go to five days.

Hardly having settled down at the enchanting destination however, he received a frantic call informing him of Bangladesh's spectacular collapse on the third morning, and that the match had picked up pace as Zimbabwe lost six wickets by tea. A fourth day finish has guaranteed now, so the tourist had to rush back to be on the presentation podium when Bangladesh eventually folded. Victoria Falls would have to wait.

**TIMEWARP**

In a match and stadium dominated by Zimbabwe, Bangladesh's role in the first Test in Harare was aptly represented by a lone Bangladeshi flag in a corner of the Grandstand. The party of five Bangladeshis had come, including a little girl of about five, to the ground over the last three days in hopes of witnessing a rare Test victory for their homeland.

The events of the third and fourth days, however, put paid to that wish. Papon

travelled from South Africa, where he lives and works, to see his national players in the flesh. He had done so in 2011 too, and the disappointment was the same. Time for Bangladeshi cricket fans in Zimbabwe seems to move slower. While the rest of the world knows and have seen that Bangladesh have moved on from their over-dependency on Mohammad Ashraful, one member of the party said, even as Bangladesh were losing wicket regularly, that he wanted to see Ashraful bat Bangladesh to a draw. Who can blame him? Ashraful seemed the only batsman capable of handling the challenge thrown by Zimbabwe's pacers.

**ATTENTIONWA**

The most vocal section of the usually small crowds at the Harare Sports Club Ground is the stand at the south eastern end of the ground. They ate relentless in their encouragement to their team, cheering every bouncer bowled by Kyle Jarvis and booing every rejected appeal for a wicket.

But their 'Attention Wa' dance is quite a sight. Everyone in the section gets on their feet and swings sideways in unison chanting the slogan which has been borrowed, according to a spectator in the stand, from the Cameroonian army.

Colin, the spectator, was wonderstruck by why Bangladesh "who played well against England, India and Pakistan" would struggle so much against Zimbabwe. No prizes for guessing who his favourite Bangladeshi cricketer is.



PHOTO: AFP

A wax statue of Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. Sachin who'll turn 40 this Wednesday played some of his most memorable innings at the SCG. His statue will be a fixture at the scenic Darling Harbour museum alongside those of Donald Bradman and Shane Warne.

## Controversy before it began

FROM PAGE 16

Association as the federation allowed two players from two different clubs which is not allowed by the BOA. In fact, clubs are not eligible to participate in the Games as they are not affiliated bodies of the BOA.

However, the upshot is that Prithul, despite giving his effort in winning the gold, will have to be content with the medal, and no official recognition. The Jafar Imam Tennis Club player was understandably disappointed with the fiasco.

"We have paired from two different clubs and the federation made the arrangement and we have won the gold medal with joint effort. Then why will only the club of the higher ranked player be on the medals' table? I think my club should also be there," said a disappointed Prithul.

The officials of the Games' technical committee were aware of the matter, but they said they were helpless in this case.

"This has been very unfair from the BTF to allow two players from two different clubs to play together," said Wing Commander Rafikul Islam, member secretary on the technical committee.

"We are also to blame partially here because we should not have allowed clubs to participate in the Games as they are not the affiliated bodies of the Bangladesh Olympic Association," Rafikul said.

However, the BTF officials, who are seemingly at fault for this untoward incident, were not available for comments. The general secretary of BTF Abdur Rahman did not attend calls on his cell phone, despite repeated attempts.

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51					52		53			54	55	
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59					60					61		

### CRYPTOQUIP

Y B O R R C B V B Y S N V L T V I V ' B

S C B V N C S P B R K I V N C S L K Y S V I

Y S X T Y N T L C R C O I L T Y B

X Y S V , Y N K S ' L P V N K S L .

**Friday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN A PERSON KNOCKING DOWN PINS DECIDES TO WEAR A HAT, I GUESS IT SHOULD BE A BOWLER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals N