

## Nadal won't get higher seeding

REUTERS, Paris  
Rafael Nadal will not be protected with a higher seeding at the French Open, tournament director Gilbert Ysern said on Saturday.

Roland Garros committee member Guy Forget suggested last month that the Spaniard, who has slipped to fifth in the world rankings, should be protected to avoid a potential quarterfinal clash with world number one Novak Djokovic. "Considering what Nadal represents in Paris, i.e. the best player in the tournament's history, it seemed incongruous that he arrives in Paris with the number 4 or 5 bib," Ysern told French sports daily L'Equipe, adding that he backed off because the move would not have been welcomed.

"But it was said to be fiddling," he said. "What was supposed to be a strong symbol, a tribute, was seen as messy business."

Nadal, who missed seven months of tennis because of a knee injury, trails world number four David Ferrer in the ATP rankings and has little chance of closing the points gap before the French Open begins on May 26.

## We can

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it's not relied on a few people. The whole thing is a team effort and I think as a team we just didn't come right yesterday. "The mistake we were kept playing across the line to Zia and give him five wickets. This is a simple mistake I think but this broke the back of the batting. So the guys had talked and thought about it. We had some time in the nets today so I think it will be fine tomorrow."

Bangladesh won their seventh game in nine tries at Bulawayo on Friday but Masakadza did not think the ground was a factor when playing the tourists. "I think they (Bangladesh) had a few good games here where we haven't played so well. We don't really think there is a jinx here. We chased 300 runs against New Zealand in a one-day game."

"It has only been one game in the series and we still have two more games to go. I believe we are capable of bouncing back and we are looking forward to the game tomorrow."

## No progress

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unavailability of the national players. "It's really unfortunate that there is no progress though two weeks have gone by after the BCB president's assurance. What we learnt from different sources is that the BCB president will meet the clubs representatives within next two-three days. We will see what happens during this time and then we will sit with the players to decide our next course of action. But one thing is very clear that the players will go for tougher movement if the board fails to hold the tournament," warned Debabrata Paul, general secretary of Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB).

The cricketers are eagerly waiting for the start of the league as most of them are heavily dependent on it for their livelihood.



Sunrisers' Ishant Sharma celebrates after getting Daredevils skipper Mahela Jayawardene out early in the game at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: BCCI

## Daredevils knocked out

STAR SPORT DESK  
In a low scoring game at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, the Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated the Delhi Daredevils by six wickets in the 48th match of the Indian Premier League yesterday. The win puts the Sunrisers on track for a berth in the knock out stages and has essentially eliminated the Daredevils.

Batting first, the visitors were bundled out for just 80 runs. In reply, the hosts reached their target with 37 balls remaining. The Daredevils' decision to bat first backfired as the visitors made their slowest start of the year and lost both their openers within the first eight overs the game. Unmukt Chand (17) and David Warner (8) shared a stand of 18 runs after the fall of the openers — one run less than the highest stand of the innings — and seemingly provided the Daredevils with a ray of hope.

## Tigers seek series

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repeated, but Saqlain believes that the Tigers are superior in quality. "The other day I was saying I can't believe we lost the first match. If you see on paper, we are better than them [Zimbabwe] -- experience-wise, quality-wise, and we have been playing better cricket. We have beaten India and Sri Lanka. Hopefully in the future we will show you that we are not just better than Zimbabwe, but we are much better than the other teams as well, those that are sitting in the top three. That is our dream and that is our goal and I hope all you are dreaming that Bangladesh will go there as well."

More than most others involved with the team Saqlain, who was a star member of the strong Pakistan team of the late 1990s and early 2000s and has 496 international wickets, speaks directly and seemed yesterday to be the embodiment of the positive energy that the Tigers, after two consecutive wins on tour, must be feeling.

They will play the second of three ODIs and Saqlain wants to win the series today. "Every game is important, regardless of who is in front of us. We are preparing ourselves to win the game, give them a tough time and put them down and win the series tomorrow, that's all."

As Saqlain was speaking a spirited Bangladesh, who are likely to retain the same team for today's game, side was in the background. Half the squad were screaming in delight as they won the pre-practice football game against their mates. After the ignominy of the first Test every member has gone from strength to strength and seems to be raring to go.

## Nasir, new vanguard

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and also his rare utterances in the press, one gets the impression of someone just taking each day as it comes, happy to live the life his talent has given him.

That talent has served Bangladesh well. Most of his innings of substance have rescued Bangladesh from precarious positions. In his very first match his 63 took Bangladesh from 58 for six to 188. Before Friday's innings his last ODI innings of 33 gave Bangladesh their first drawn series against Sri Lanka in the rain-curtailed 3rd ODI in Pallekele.

He is the vanguard of the new Bangladeshi cricketers, and he is well on his way to reach the stature of Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim in the current team. The fact that he has scored his 672 runs at a strike rate of nearly 81 proves that while he has played 18 of his 23 matches against Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and West Indies, he has not cowered in the face of the greater might of his opponents.

Nasir is the joker of the pack in the current team, enjoying every minute of his time as a Bangladeshi cricketer. Fans can only hope that he realises that he is here to stay and be an integral part of the rising fortunes of the Bangladesh team in the future.

However, the visitors ended up losing their last eight wickets for just 30 runs and were bowled out with five balls to spare. Sunrisers' Darren Sammy, Thisara Perera and Dale Steyn picked two wickets each.

The hosts began their chase fluently as openers Shikhar Dhawan (22) and Parthiv Patel (14) put 33 on the board within the first four overs. Dhawan's wicket in the in Powerplay, however, led to a mini-collapse as the Sunrisers found themselves in a precarious 60 for 4 after 11 overs. A steady innings from West Indian skipper Sammy (18), however, ensured that there were no further hiccups as he guided the hosts home.

SCORES IN BRIEF  
DELHI DAREDEVILS: 80 all out in 19.1 overs (Chand 17; Sammy 2-10, Perera 2-11) v SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: 81 for 4 in 13.5 overs (Sammy 18; Botha 2-11, Mendis 1-16). Result: Sunrisers Hyderabad won by six wickets. Player of the match: Darren Sammy.

## Anastasia wins first clay title

AFP, Oeiras  
Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova beat Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro 7-5, 6-2 on Saturday to win the Portugal Open and claim her first trophy on clay.

The third-seeded champion, coached by former Swiss great Martina Hingis, earned the fifth title of her career while leaving her opponent winless from five finals.

One of those was at the same venue a year ago, when Suarez Navarro went down to Kaia Kanepi, an opponent she beat in the semifinals this week.

Pavlyuchenkova has been working with Hingis officially for just a few weeks and the game style and fighting determination of Switzerland's five-time Grand Slam champion may be rubbing off on the 21-year-old right-hander.

"She was really happy with the win," said Pavlyuchenkova of her mentor's first win as a coach.

The winner was less than thrilled with a slow start to her own game.

Pavlyuchenkova was flying straight to Spain later Saturday for a first-round start at the Madrid Masters against world number three Victoria Azarenka, who has not played for more than a month due to injury and has yet to step on to clay.

## Hockey looking for a sponsor

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has approached Grameenphone to come forward and strike a sponsorship deal worth Tk 3 crore for the national teams including the age-group squads for one year.

Following recent successes of the national team in the AHF Cup and World Hockey League, the game's local governing body is keenly searching for a permanent sponsor in a bid to keep the momentum going and the federation officials yesterday sat with officials of the mobile phone operator.

"They will let us know later after going through our proposal and we are hopeful that they will come forward to be associated with hockey," said BHF general secretary Rahmatullah yesterday.

Meanwhile, Janata Bank Ltd has already signed a memorandum of understanding worth Tk 90.44 lakh to bear the expenses of a quality foreign coach for the national team.

## Ryder back in gym

ANI, Sydney

New Zealand cricketer Jesse Ryder has reportedly made a significant return to fitness and recovery after a gym stint, following an alleged grievous assault on him that had left him in a coma for a few days.

Ryder said on Twitter that he had completed a gym workout in Wellington, although he admitted that he was paying the price for it physically, the Sydney Morning Herald reports. Ryder had tweeted, "Back at gym 2day finally pity I almost died. #GottaWork".

Ryder was admitted to Christchurch hospital over a month back after sustaining serious head injuries in a late-night assault by unidentified men in a bar, and the New Zealand batsman has now been put under intensive care, according to the local police.

According to emerging reports from local media Ryder was attacked twice in quick succession, suffering serious head injuries in the second part of what a witness called a 'Jesse hate fight'.

Two men have been charged over the incident, the report added.

## Gautam, Yuvi left out

AFP, New Delhi

India's selectors on Saturday dropped opener Gautam Gambhir and all-rounder Yuvraj Singh for next month's Champions Trophy one-day tournament in England.

The duo were part of the side that beat England 3-2 in a home one-day series in January, with Gambhir scoring just 127 runs and Yuvraj 126 in five one-dayers.

Yuvraj, treated for a rare germ-cell cancer between his lungs in the United States last year, was named man of the tournament in India's 50-over World Cup triumph in 2011.

Gambhir has scored 5,238 runs in 147 one-dayers with 11 centuries while Yuvraj has made 8,211 runs in 282 matches with 13 hundreds.

India are drawn with South Africa, Pakistan and the West Indies in group B of the Champions Trophy, from which the top two will qualify for the semifinals.

The other group comprises England, Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

India, who shared the 2002 Champions Trophy with Sri Lanka following a rain-hit final in Colombo, will clash with South Africa in their first match at Cardiff on June 6.

Shikhar Dhawan, who played his last

one-dayer against the West Indies in 2011, returned to bolster the batting. He is likely to open the innings with Murali Vijay, who also made a comeback.

Dhawan, who has so far scored 69 runs in five one-dayers, rose to fame after hammering a 174-ball 187 on his Test debut against Australia in Mohali in March.

With the conditions in England expected to favour seam bowling, India named five fast bowlers -- Irfan Pathan, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ishant Sharma, and Vinay Kumar.

India picked three spinners -- Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra and Ravindra Jadeja -- in the 15-man squad to be led by wicketkeeper-batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina and Rohit Sharma are the other specialist batsmen.

India are without experienced opener Virender Sehwag, off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and seamer Zaheer Khan, who were not named in a 30-man preliminary squad last month.

Sehwag's 219 against the West Indies in December 2011 is the highest individual score in one-dayers and he is only the second batsman to score a double-century in the shorter format after compatriot Sachin Tendulkar.

But he was dropped due to recent poor form.

## MCC on French leave!

AFP, London

While France has fallen for the charms of football and rugby despite their Anglo-Saxon origins, the "je ne sais quoi" of cricket has never taken hold on the other side of the Channel in quite the same way.

But that won't deter Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) from sending its latest side to France on Sunday as part of its ongoing mission to spread cricket round the world, and not just in the countries and lands of the former British Empire which provide its leading Test match nations.

Such "missionary work" matters to MCC, which owns London's Lord's ground -- the self-styled "home of cricket". This year also sees the club touring Cyprus, Uganda and Rwanda.

But suggestions a planned MCC tour of France in 1789 was scuppered by the French Revolution -- a rather more memorable reason for an abandonment than the customary "rain stopped play" -- may be more of a legend than historical fact according to MCC researcher Neil Robinson, with the club's records from that period destroyed in an 1825 fire.

"MCC was only formed in 1787 so you'd think they would have had more pressing issues than organising a tour of France two years later," Robinson, in charge of the library at Lord's, told AFP.

"However, legend has it that the Duke of Dorset suggested to the Earl of Tankerville [a title deriving from Tancarville in Normandy] he bring a cricket team over to help assuage anti-British feeling.

"Tankerville was one of the grandees who would have played a role in the for-

mation of MCC. The legend also has it that when the team got to Dover (the southeast coastal port town then, as now, an embarkation point for France), they saw the Duke of Dorset coming the other way as a result of the Revolution," said Robinson.

Former British Prime Minister and lifelong cricket fan John Major appears to have finally put paid to all talk of an MCC, or indeed any kind, of 1789 tour while researching his book "More Than a Game", a history of early cricket.

Dorset, according to Sir John Major, "didn't leave France until four weeks after the French Revolution, when reports had already reached England. Given what was known at the time in England about the French Revolution, why would anyone want to send a cricket team there at that time?"

But while talk of cricket in France in 1789 may be far-fetched, there is evidence it has been played in the country, if not extensively, for hundreds of years.

And the only time the sport appeared in the Olympics was at the 1900 Games in Paris where France, admittedly with a team largely made up of expatriates, won the cricket silver medal after losing to Britain.

There is also a French link to one of cricket's most famous names in former Australia captain turned commentator and journalist Richie Benaud, whose great-grandfather, Jean Benaud, was born in Bordeaux and settled in Australia in 1840.

In the mid 1990s Richie Benaud became a patron of France Cricket.

This year's MCC team will be managed by former Surrey and Nottinghamshire batsman Darren Bicknell.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 "Grand"  
5 Pos-sessed  
8 Notoriety  
12 Perukes  
13 Crib  
14 Addict  
15 Rodgers/Hammerstein show  
17 Night glimpse of  
19 Type measures  
20 Chews away (at)  
21 Sphere  
22 Method  
23 Podiatrist's concerns  
26 Porter's burden  
30 Last write-up  
31 Boxer  
32 Carrier's partner  
33 Smoker's gadget  
35 "Lady and the —"

36 Listener  
37 Crony  
38 Aware of  
41 Paving gunk  
42 Pump up the volume  
45 Scandinavian city  
46 Rodgers/Hammerstein show  
48 Radiate  
49 Diving bird  
50 Soy paste  
51 Stitched  
52 Sch. org.  
53 Wan

DOWN  
1 Pairs  
2 Trudge through the woods (Abbr.)  
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4 G8 nation  
5 Test ban subject  
6 Intentions  
7 Genetic stuff  
8 Styne/Merrill show  
9 Drifting  
10 Cat call  
11 Sea flock  
16 Towel designation  
20 Joke  
21 Bernstein/Comden/Green show  
22 Joker  
23 Army rank  
24 Japanese sash  
25 18-wheeler  
26 Prickly plant part  
27 Actress  
28 Jewel  
29 Kreskin's claim  
31 Apiece  
34 "The Way" in China  
35 Poi base  
37 Anorak  
38 Swine  
39 Capri, for one  
40 Oxen's burden  
41 Lacking  
42 Un-repaired  
43 Netting  
44 Tactic  
46 Upper limit  
47 Ms. Thurman

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Friday's answer 3-26

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## CRYPTOQUIP

JQHRBAQ MPBS PIHQ-VZDRJVQ  
WRLQ EBEEM FPX WBSIQF  
JRHD ZIWP R LPIXSQV, FZF  
ZWA AMLEWPLA SQ-HBS?

Friday's Cryptoquip: FURNITURE UNITS USED BY SMALL DONKEYS FOR KEEPING APPAREL ITEMS IN STORAGE: BURROS' BUREAUS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals D