

Serena made to sweat

AFP, Madrid

World number one Serena Williams was given a reasonable test in her first match at the Madrid Masters on Sunday against Kazakh qualifier Yulia Putintseva before the American eventually prevailed 7-6 (7/5), 6-1. Putintseva had come through two rounds of qualifying and she seemed to handle the warm conditions better early on in an extremely tight first set. Both women broke each other once and Putintseva managed to save another three break points to force the set into a tie-break. However, the World No.88 finally crumbled at 5-4 in the tie-break as she fired long and Williams served out the set before taking control in the second, breaking four times to close out the match. "I felt a little sluggish at the beginning, but happily I was able to win," the 15-time Grand Slam winner told a press conference afterwards. "I know I will need to play better as each match goes on."

Royals' home streak on

PTI, Jaipur

Ajinkya Rahane struck a scintillating 67 while Rahul Dravid produced an age-defying innings to maintain Rajasthan Royals' impeccable 'home' record as the hosts defeated Pune Warriors by five wickets in a thrilling Pepsi Indian Premier League match here yesterday. The win propelled Rajasthan to fourth position in the league table with 14 points from 11 matches while Pune Warriors suffered their seventh successive loss in the tournament with no chances of them making the play-offs. By the virtue of this win, Royals also exacted a 'sweet revenge' on their opponents, having tasted defeat on the previous occasion when the two sides met in Pune on April 11.

The match went down to the wire as Royals lost some quick wickets after the second strategic time-out was taken but Stuart Binny's unbeaten 13-ball 32 ensured that 'Fort Sawai Man Singh' wasn't breached.

Royals registered their sixth win at home with one ball to spare. Chasing a challenging target of 179 runs, Rahane and Dravid provided their team a solid start, adding 98 runs for the opening-wicket partnership in just 11.5 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF
PUNE WARRIORS: 178 for 4 in 20 overs (Uthappa 54, Finch 45, Marsh 35 not out; Trivedi 1-33)
RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 182 for 5 in 19.5 overs (Rahane 67, Dravid 58, Binny 32 not out; Parnell 3-27)
Result: Rajasthan Royals won by 5 wickets.
Player-of-the-match: Ajinkya Rahane.

Cricket camp

FROM PAGE 16
wanted to know about the physical state of each player, so that we can design training programmes that can cater to the individual," said McInnes. "It can help in the sense that we can get to know before-hand if a player is prone to any kind of an injury," added McInnes. BCB officials have stated that they will begin the camp today, if the prevailing political condition improves.



Mumbai Indians pacer Mitchell Johnson celebrates one of his three Chennai Super Kings wickets during their Indian Premier League match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

PHOTO: CRICINFO

Mumbai halt CSK run

PTI, Mumbai

Mumbai Indians snapped Chennai Super Kings's seven-match winning streak with a crushing 60-run victory in a lop-sided Pepsi Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Electing to bat, Mumbai scored 139 for five with captain Rohit Sharma top-scoring with a 30-ball 39 not out and then shot out Chennai for just 79 in 15.2 overs at the Wankhede Stadium to halt the visiting team's dream run in the tournament.

Pragyan Ojha (3/11) and Mitchell Johnson (3/27) shared six wickets among them while Lasith Malinga grabbed two wickets for just six runs. Harbhajan Singh and IPL debutant Pawan Suyal chipped in with a wicket each to help Mumbai put brakes on Chennai juggernaut in IPL 6.

Chennai's 79 all out turned out to be the lowest total posted by them in IPL, their previous lowest being 109 against Rajasthan Royals in 2008 in Jaipur. This was also the lowest total by any team this IPL season, beating Delhi Daredevils' 80 all out against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. Sunday's loss was the heaviest defeat for Chennai in the IPL in terms of runs.

Till this match, Chennai looked the most formidable and consistent team but

they were never in the run chase today as they suffered a top-order batting collapse with half their side in dressing room for just 34 runs in the seventh over.

They would have been in an even worse situation had the normally brilliant Mumbai fielder Kieron Pollard not dropped Chennai opener Michael Hussey (22) thrice in three successive balls in the first over of the innings bowled by Mitchell Johnson.

Pollard later took catches of Suresh Raina (0) and Chennai captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (10) but again dropped Ravindra Jadeja (2) though it was a difficult one.

Despite the loss, their third in 12 matches, Chennai still lead the table with 18 points while Mumbai jumped to third place with 14 points from 11 games.

With the win, Mumbai maintained their unbeaten run at home this season while Chennai lost their first away match this year.

SCORES IN BRIEF
MUMBAI INDIANS: 139 for 5 in 20 overs (Smith 22, Karthik 23, Rohit 39 not out, Harbhajan 25 not out; Jadeja 3-29)
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 79 all out in 15.2 overs (M Hussey 22, Dhoni 10, Jadeja 20; Johnson 3-27, Ojha 3-11, Malinga 2-6)
Result: Mumbai Indians won by 60 runs.
Player-of-the-match: Mitchell Johnson.

Chelsea shoot to third spot

FROM PAGE 16

Chelsea were missing Eden Hazard due to a calf strain and made four changes from their Europa League semifinal second leg success against FC Basel on Thursday.

The visitors made a bright start, with United goalkeeper Anders Lindegaard touching a shot from Oscar onto the post and Demba Ba curling a shot wide from the left.

United came to life slowly and did not pose a threat until late in the first half, with Robin van Persie diverting a glorious Ryan Giggs pass wide and then heading straight at Petr Cech from Nemanja Vidic's cross.

The second half was similarly underwhelming, with Frank Lampard blazing over for Chelsea and United substitute Rooney heading over the bar at the other end.

Mata finally settled things with three minutes to play with a low shot that nicked off Jones and trundled past Lindegaard, before Rafael was sent off for kicking out at countryman Luiz.

Chelsea interim manager Rafael

Benitez was reluctant to discuss Rafael's red card.

"I didn't see the incident and I didn't see any replay," he said.

Everton remain on course to finish above Liverpool for the second season in a row after holding their city rivals to a 0-0 draw in a scrappy Merseyside derby at Anfield earlier in the day.

Liverpool's best chance saw a goal-bound effort from man-of-the-match Steven Gerrard cleared by Everton defender Sylvain Distin, who had a goal contentiously disallowed at the other end. It meant Liverpool stalwart Jamie Carragher failed to finish on the winning side in his 30th and final Merseyside derby, while Everton are still without an away win in this fixture since 1999.

The draw left Everton somewhat marooned in sixth place in the table, five points above their neighbours and five points below the European qualifying positions with two games to play.

Juventus champions

FROM PAGE 18

14 in all competitions prior to Sunday's encounter at Juventus Stadium.

When the hosts were awarded a penalty just before the hour after midfielder Massimo Donati fouled Bianconeri striker Mirko Vucinic in the area, Vidal stepped up to beat Stefano Sorrentino in the Palermo goal.

Vidal was cautioned for over-exuberant celebrations but the goal sent Juventus Stadium into raptures.

Juve's title celebrations were tinged by the late sending-off of French midfielder Paul Pogba, who saw red seven minutes from the final whistle after spitting at

Salvatore Aronica following a shouting match with the defender.

Juventus, who won the title in 2012 after being unbeaten in the league the entire season, have lost only four times this campaign.

The Turin giants have now secured one of two spots in Serie A which offer direct qualification for next season's Champions League, with Napoli poised to claim the runners-up spot.

AC Milan, currently third, boosted their chances of claiming the last Champions League third spot after an 84th-minute winner from Mario Balotelli secured a 1-0 home win over Torino.

Good start for NZ

AFP, Derby

New Zealand made a promising start to their tour of England as Dean Brownlie and BJ Watling scored half-centuries in their opening match against Derbyshire on Saturday.

The tourists are warming up for their Test series against England, which starts at Lord's on May 16, and they recovered from a sloppy start to get a useful knock against their county championship opponents. Both Hamish

Rutherford and Peter Fulton went in the first 13 overs, but Brownlie and Watling shared a century stand before the tourists declared on 289 for five, with Mark Footitt taking four for 65 for Derbyshire.

That gave the Black Caps bowlers 12 overs before stumps and Neil Wagner broke through just before the close when he bowled Chesney Hughes for nine to leave Derbyshire on 24 for one.

The New Zealanders left out captain Brendon McCullum and batsman Ross Taylor who had both arrived in the country in the last 24 hours after playing in the Indian Premier League.

Venus out of Madrid Open

AFP, Madrid

Venus Williams has withdrawn from the WTA Madrid Open because of a back injury, tournament organisers announced on Sunday.

The world number 21 had been due to open play on Sunday on the main showcourt against Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues, but she pulled out before the match could get underway.

Williams will be replaced by Stefanie Voegel of Switzerland.

Portugal Open Wawrinka's

AFP, Oeiras

Stanislas Wawrinka won his first title since 2011 as he upset top seed David Ferrer 6-1, 6-4 to claim the title at the Portugal Open on Sunday.

The Swiss claimed his fourth career title, three of which have come on clay.

The 28-year-old last lifted a trophy at Chennai in January, two years ago.

Ferrer, ranked fourth in the world, was burdened by 31 unforced errors in the 64-minute loss.

Bravo replaces Sammy

AFP, St. John's



All-rounder Dwayne Bravo was Saturday named as West Indies captain for next month's Champions Trophy, replacing Darren Sammy

who stays in charge of the Test and Twenty20 squads.

Bravo, who took over from Sammy for the three-match whitewash of Zimbabwe in the Caribbean this year, leads a 15-man squad for the June 6-23 tournament in England.

"Our results in Tests and T20s have been showing consistent improvement and Sammy deserves every kudos for the work he has done in leading and moulding the team in these formats," said Clyde Butts, chairman of the selection panel.

"However our ODI results have not been as strong and we believe that it is best that we freshen the leadership of the team in this format.

"Dwayne Bravo is an experienced, seasoned and senior cricketer who has demonstrated leadership qualities."

Bravo, 29, made his ODI debut in 2004 and has played 137 matches, scoring 2,311 runs and taking 160 wickets.

His top score is 112 not out while 6-43 represents his best bowling return.

Bravo said he was honoured to be appointed West Indies captain.

"To be named captain of the West Indies is one of the highest honours and I am truly humbled to have been appointed to this most prestigious position."

Sammy congratulated Bravo and said he



DWAYNE BRAVO

SQUAD

Dwayne Bravo (captain), Denesh Ramdin, Tino Best, Darren Bravo, Johnson Charles, Chris Gayle, Jason Holder, Sunil Narine, Kieron Pollard, Ravi Rampaul, Kemar Roach, Darren Sammy, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Devon Smith.

will give the new captain his full support.

"I congratulate Dwayne Bravo and give him my full support as he leads the ODI team and he can be assured of my unwavering commitment to the team and our plans to be champions of One Day cricket," Sammy said.

Kieran Powell was not considered for selection due to a finger injury.

West Indies are in Group B at the Champions Trophy along with India, South Africa and Pakistan.

Tigers fall to a composed Zim

FROM PAGE 16

Only when the equation was getting close did he hit a shot in anger, with Zimbabwe on 199 in the 42nd over, but the resultant edge flew past the diving Mushfiquur Rahim for four. From then Zimbabwe surged ahead, hitting a boundary almost every over and finishing the match with 13 balls to spare.

Earlier, Bangladesh were headed for a below par score before Razzak's innings saved the blushes. After being sent in to bat for the second match in a row, Tamim Iqbal went in the third over edging a flashy drive to a Tendai Chatara delivery that was leaving the left-hander. Mohammad Ashraful went in the eighth over playing a loose shot to a short and wide ball from Jarvis.

Mominul Haque was again scratchy in his 55-ball 24. Mushfiquur on the other hand was fluent, dispatching the first ball he faced for four past backward point. But soon he became the third wicket to fall with the score on 60, adjudged out to a ball from Elton Chigumbura that seemed to be sliding down leg. Mominul finally buckled under pressure, logging one down midwicket's throat to leave Bangladesh at 88 for four.

Shakib like Mushfiquur was batting without any trouble and looked set for a substantial knock. He took the singles on offer and in his inimitable style had progressed to 34 in 34 balls in no time. He looked for another single off off-spinner Prosper Utseya but as he tried to turn the ball towards leg, he got an inside edge onto pad. A loud appeal followed and the batsman was shocked to see the umpire's finger go up, and left the crease fuming -- his angered swing of the bat almost hit the wicketkeeper Taylor, for which he apologised immediately.

It was learnt from sources close to the

team that today he will have to either formally apologise to the match referee or deny that he engaged in misconduct, after which disciplinary action may be taken.

Nasir Hossain seemed set to play another one of his rescue acts, and was succeeding for some time. But after reaching 36 he became Chatara's second victim, trying to steer a delivery past the keeper but only succeeding in edging it. Ziaur Rahman edged a pull to the keeper to leave Bangladesh in dire straits at 185 for seven in the 44th over. Mahmudullah Riyad was watching from the other end, and it seemed that he was Bangladesh's last hope of reaching a 220-plus total. Instead, the desperately needed late surge came in spectacular fashion from Razzak.

Even with Riyad gone, caught at fine leg in the 47th over for 31, Razzak single-handedly took the team to a total that seemed near impossible when he came in. Since his arrival Bangladesh scored 68 runs in 6.1 overs and 53 off 22 came off his bat. He brought up his fifty in 21 balls, equalling the record for the fastest fifty by a Bangladesh batsman with Ashraful's blitz against England in 2005.

His breathtaking innings breathed some momentum into the team, but that was soon seized back by Zimbabwe's top-order.

BFF mulling

FROM PAGE 16

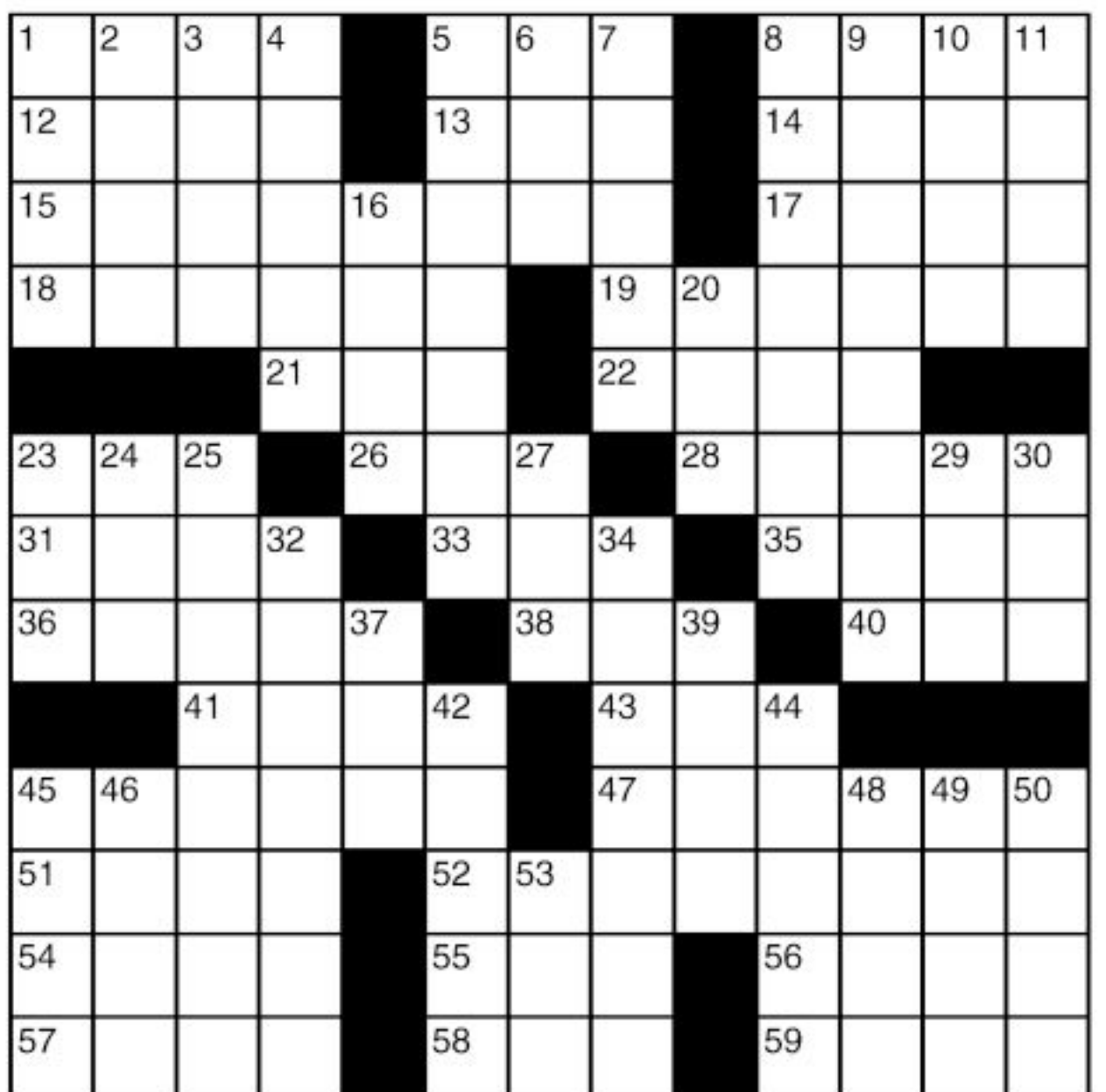
the sixth edition of Bangladesh Premier League and second edition of the Bangladesh Championship League respectively. These numbers are going to be increased to 10 each for the two competitions from next season.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 Uncate-	DOWN	10 "— for All
1 Swindle	gorized	1 Long	Seasons"
5 Poke	(Abbr.)	1 Long	sand-
8 Elliptical	43 Last	2 Hint	wiches
12 Arm	letter in	3 Soon	16 On
bone	London	4 Wor-	20 Biblical
13 Acapulco	45 Shed	shipper of	verb
gold	47 Advance	Quetzal-	suffix
14 Arrived	51 "Money	coat	23 Spinning
15 Resil-	— every-	5 Family	stat
ience	thing"	to keep	24 Before
17 Former	52 Zest	up with	25 Sleeping
New	54 Air	Curve	state
York	speed	6 Curve	27 Glutton
arch-	measure	7 "Britain's	29 Wilde-
bishop	55 Old	Got	beast
18 Legisla-	French	Talent"	30 "A
tive	coin	phenom	mouse!"
group	56 Hammer	Susan	32 Columns'
19 Memo-	part	8 Micro-	bases
rizes	57 Pur-	Mela-,	34 Game
21 Ph. bk.	chases	and	akin to
data	58 Away	Poly-	pinochle
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23 Scarlet	59 Being, to	against a	ending
26 Vigor	Brutus	squatter	39 Carte
28 Depend			42 Thicket
(on)			44 Curtain
31 Item on	Solution time: 21 mins.		45 Branch
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35 Teen's			for a five
woe			49 Dogfight
36 Haggard			partici-
or Travis			pants
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40 "Eeeww!"			bit

Yesterday's answer 3-27

THOU HAD FAME
WINGS SIN USER
OKLAHOMA NEON
SEE EMS GNAWS
ORB WAY
CORN S BAGGAGE
ORBIT PUG LIVES
LIGHTIER TRAMP
EAR PAL
HIPTO TAR AMP
OSLO CAROUSEL
GLOW AUK MISO
SEWN PITA ASHY



CRYPTOQUIP

O A G T Q A G X V K T J F F X
L R N K V K G C Q A J Q F J N D G P J W W
I V L I F F R Q G C P G Q J F, K Q O J W
N G J F F X J N G V K T K T D P I P G T Q.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE YOUR ONCE-LIKABLE TAME PUPPY DOG TURNED BACK INTO A MONGREL, DID ITS SYMPTOMS RE-CUR? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T