

India decides to rest the best

Country's best ranked singles player Nagal not picked for Croatia tie

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, MARCH 5

A FEW surprises were in store, from the Indians as well as the Croatians, when the teams announced their final nominations for the Davis Cup World Group qualifier, which begins on Friday. Ahead of the draw ceremony on Thursday, the Croatian team's top doubles player, world no 10 Ivan Dodig was forced to withdraw due to a hand injury. But the hosts had an able replacement, in world no 32 Franko Skugor, who will team up with world no 10 Mate Pavic in the doubles rubber.

The duo will take on India's doubles specialists Rohan Bopanna and Leander Paes, who was picked over India's no 2 Divij Sharan. Still, that was expected.

What was curious however, was the team's decision to overlook India's highest ranked singles player Sumit Nagal (127). Instead, on the opening day on Friday, India no 2 Prajnesh Gunneswaran (132) will start the tie with his singles match against Borna Gojo (277), while former world no 3 Marin Cilic will take on Ramkumar Ramanathan (182) in the second rubber. On Saturday, the doubles tie will be played before the reverse singles matches.

"Over the last week, both the coach Zeeshan Ali and I saw the players and also what was happening with the new court," says Davis Cup non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal. "We felt that as a strategy, this would work out better for us because the court seems to have low bounce and the ball keeps moving. With the strength of our team, we felt this was the best combination to go with."

The tactic, for the time being, did catch the Croatians off guard. "It may be a little unexpected that they (didn't pick) Nagal, who is their top player," said 2014 US Open champion Cilic, the biggest singles player competing in the tie.

"But all three of their singles players are solid, they are very similar in game. I have to make sure I (win) my two matches, and in other single matches we are (underdogs). But Borna will not be (under much pressure), he can play relaxed."

Without the services of Croatia's highest ranked singles player, world no 33 Borna Coric, Gojo was selected for his second Davis Cup tie. The 22-year-old made his debut at the Davis Cup Finals last year, losing both his



Ramkumar (182) got the nod ahead of Sumit Nagal (127) who is India's no.1. Express

Ronaldinho in trouble over 'adulterated' passport

Former Barcelona and Brazil striker Ronaldinho Gaucho was being questioned by Paraguayan authorities on Thursday after arriving in the country with what police said was an adulterated Paraguayan passport. Ronaldinho

and his brother and business manager Roberto de Assis were both questioned by law enforcement officials in their hotel room on the outskirts of Asuncion shortly after arriving in the country on Wednesday, police said

Paraguayan prosecutor Federico Delfino told a news conference on Thursday that the pair left Guarulhos airport in Sao Paulo with Brazilian passports and were given Paraguayan ones "as soon as they got off the plane". REUTERS

DAVIS CUP WRAP

INJURY-HIT JAPAN number one Kei Nishikori said Thursday he had failed to recover from an elbow injury and will sit out the behind-closed-doors Davis Cup qualifier against Ecuador at the weekend. A depleted Japan will also be without world number 48 Yoshihito Nishioka when they bid to reach the finals in Spain later this year.

WITH AUSTRALIA'S top-ranked male players injured, the country's Davis Cup final qualifying hopes will rest with Jordan Thompson and John Millman. Thompson will be the first Australian on court in singles against Brazil starting Friday. The 63rd-ranked Thompson will play Thiago Monteiro followed by Millman's match against Thiago Seyboth Wild. AP/AFP

matches - albeit against then world no 23 Andrey Rublev and former world no 1 Rafael Nadal. Against the Indians, Gojo is expected to pick up his first win in the competition.

"It will be easier for me now than the first time, when I had a

baptism of fire in Madrid," Gojo says. "I opened the Davis Cup, and then immediately played with Nadal in the second match. But there is no pressure here."

With Cilic expected to win both his singles matches, and the Indians favourites to win against

Gojo, the tie will potentially be decided by the lone doubles rubber. The six-man team that travelled to Croatia did consist of three doubles specialists, world no 37 and the country's highest ranked player Bopanna, India no 2 Divij Sharan (56) and no 5 Paes (115), who is currently on his farewell season. The 46-year-old Paes, though unsurprisingly, got the nod ahead of Sharan, who has played just two Davis Cup ties so far.

"We're going with more experience this time. We always have a chance to change, but I'd prefer to go with experience at this point," Rajpal adds.

This is the seventh time in as many years that India will aim at making it to the World Group of the competition. And with the way the two teams have lined up, there is a decent chance for an upset win over the two-time champions.

TV: Live on D Sport, 7:30pm.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

- "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" - talks by successful women entrepreneurs
- Panel discussion on creating a conducive business ecosystem for empowering women entrepreneurs
- Felicitation of women entrepreneurs and enablers of women entrepreneurship

No end to Jose's woes

REUTERS
LONDON, MARCH 5

SERGIO AGUERO'S second-half goal proved enough for holders Manchester City to beat second-tier Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 on Wednesday and reach the FA Cup quarter-finals, but Pep Guardiola's side made hard work of it. Jose Mourinho's problems piled up as his Tottenham Hotspur side were bundled out in a penalty shootout by the Premier League's bottom club Norwich City.

The match ended 1-1 after extra time but Norwich keeper Tim Krul saved two penalties to send his side through and condemn Tottenham to a fourth successive defeat. Leicester City ended a poor run of form to set up a home last-eight tie against Chelsea after beating Birmingham City 1-0, Ricardo Pereira's header sealing a tight Midlands derby.

Manchester City's reward was an away quarter-final at Newcastle United, while Norwich will have a home tie against Derby County or Manchester United who play on Thursday. Wednesday's draw also paired Sheffield United against 13-time FA Cup winners Arsenal.

The Hillsborough faithful would hardly have arrived to watch their side take on a powerful-looking Manchester City line-up with much faith in a shock after a run of only two wins in 13 Championship games for Sheffield Wednesday. They gamely kept themselves in contention, however, as City's overwhelming domination failed to present them with a shot on target until the 48th minute.



Tottenham's Eric Dier confronts a fan after his side's defeat to Norwich in the FA Cup on Wednesday. AP

Aguero, Gabriel Jesus, Riyad Mahrez and David Silva all started for City, a mark of Guardiola's respect for the Cup, but they could find no way through Wednesday's massed defence. John Stones headed a chance over, Nicolas Otamendi headed a Mahrez free kick against the crossbar and Benjamin Mendy's ferocious shot produced a brilliant save from Joe Wildsmith who turned it against the bar. Sadly for Wildsmith he will rue City's 53rd-minute winner. Mendy slid a pass to Aguero who turned sharply and fired in a well-hit shot that the keeper got a strong hand to but could not prevent from creeping in. It was Aguero's 23rd goal of the season.

Wretched form

Wednesday, whose wretched form has blown any chance of promotion, only managed one shot but there were still

a few late jitters for City who should have won more comfortably. Spurs got off to the perfect start against Norwich when Jan Vertonghen headed home Giovanni Lo Celso's delivery.

But Tottenham's early promise faded as Norwich showed again why they are not being written off as relegation certainties. Emiliano Buendia and Todd Cantwell were a constant menace with Buendia forcing a fine save from Michel Vorm who was playing his first game for Tottenham for 17 months.

Vorm made a dreadful mess of Kenny McLean's shot in the 78th minute, spilling the ball into the path of Josip Drmic who bundled in the equaliser. Tottenham finished extra time on top with the excellent Lo Celso denied by Krul and Gedson Fernandes blazing over and Krul was to be Norwich's hero in the penalty shootout.

HARYANA GOVERNMENT TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1.	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPING WORK OF GOVT. COLLEGE MANDKOLA PALWAL. (RECALL TENDER ID 118029)	04.03.2020 16.03.2020	16.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_121735	012429775100 zilesinghort@gmail.com
2.	PWD B&R NARAINGARH	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM NAWAGOAN BASS TO SANGHOLI IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTT. + 10 OTHER WORKS	09.03.2020 23.03.2020	440.55 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
3.	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED NIRMAL SADAN BUILDING AT GURUGRAM (PROVIDING PERMANENT AUDIO VIDEO AND VIDEO CONFERRING SYSTEM) + 1 OTHER WORK	04.03.2020 09.03.2020	62.73 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER ID 2020_HRY_121594_1	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
4.	PWD B&R PANIPAT	UP- GRADATION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTER, RAIR KALAN IN DISTT. PANIPAT (RE-INVITED) + 3 OTHER WORKS	02.03.2020 16.03.2020	23.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
5.	PWD B&R NUH	A/R FOR ADMN. BLOCK IN MINI SECTT. AT NUH IN NUH DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 IN NUH DISTT. + 4 OTHER WORKS	05.03.2020 19.03.2020	15.36 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01267-271237
6.	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	SELECTION OF SYSTEM INTEGRATOR / BIDDER FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF E-TICKETING, RFID BASED BUS PASS SYSTEM AND GPS SYSTEM ON BOOT MODEL	05.03.2020 08.04.2020	48 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722710371/ dtcpondr@gmail.com
7.	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG., SIRSA	PROCUREMENT OF SEWERAGE MANHOLE CLEANING ROBOT FOR SIRSA CIRCLE SUPPLY OF MANHOLE CLEANING ROBOT AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR 1 YEAR FOR SIRSA TOWN.	04.06.2020 16.03.2020	53.01 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_121246_1	9991195788 ee3sirsas@phedharyana.gov.in
8.	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPTT., JIND	DEWATERING, DIGGING/DISILTING OF PUNNAWALA POND, VILLAGE BHURAIN, DISTRICT JIND. + 9 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 18.03.2020	73.88 LACS	hid.gov.in	xenwsjd@gmail.com
9.	IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES DEPTT., FARIDABAD	SUPPLY, INSTALLING AND PAINTING OF 01 NO. NEW GATE WITH REPAIRING OF WINCH MACHINE AT PONDARI DISTRIBUTARY AT RD 110 ON GURGAON CANAL. + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2020	8.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-wsmfdirr@gov.in
10.	IRRIGATION & W.R. DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SCADA SYSTEM FOR JLN CANAL PUMPING AUTOMATION, FOR IW/RD, HARYANA UNDER NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT (NHP)	06.03.2020 07.04.2020	EMD Rs. 26,00,000	https://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO HRY/NHP/SCADA/02	xen.nhp@gmail.com 0172-2560080
11.	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT YAMUNA NAGAR	TRANSPORTATION TENDER	04.03.2020 19.03.2020	60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender NO TPF-2020-HRY_121560_1	9466436638
12.	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT YAMUNA NAGAR	SNP TENDER	04.03.2020 19.03.2020	60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender NOSNP-2020-HRY_121553_1	9466436638
13.	GOVT. ITI BUTANA	INTENDS FOR PETTY TOOLS & EQUIPMENTS	CLOSING DATE 10.03.2020	8.28 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9812168742 butana.giti@gmail.com
14.	SKILL DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT,	SUPPLY OF PETTY/TOOLS & EQUIPMENTS	04.03.2020 12.03.2020	5 LACS	http://gitiibarwala.org.in	barwala.giti@gmail.com 098966-48866
15.	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	PDG. E.I. WORK IN COMMUNITY CENTER AT VILLAGE SULTANPUR DISTT. KARNAL	04.03.2020 12.03.2020	4.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	94678-07024 / 0171-2550510 prexeengelec.amb@hry.nic.in
16.	DIRECTOR GENERAL SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	ISI MARKED CENTRIFUGALLY CAST (SPUN) DUCTILE IRON PRESSURE PIPES OF 100 TO 1200MM DIA SIZES CLASSES K-7 & K-9 SPECIFICATION NO. 8329/2000 (AS AMENDED UP-TO DATE).	05.03.2020 08.04.2020	600 CRORES (MAXIMUM) EXCLUSIVE OF TAXES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in, dsndharyana.gov.in	0172-2570121-124,2584125, 2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
17.	GOVT. ITI KHARKHODA	INTENDS FOR PETTY TOOLS & EQUIPMENTS	CLOSING DATE 10.03.2020	23.05 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991061911 Kharkhoda.giti@gmail.com
18.	FOREST DEPARTMENT PINJORE	D-SILTING OF PONDAGE AREA OF WHS KATRON WALA CHOE AND RAISING OF INLET TANKKHODI OF WHS KATRON WALA CHOE & CONSTRUCTION OF GREAT WIRE STRUCTURE NO.1 & 2 BEARWALA BEAT RAMGARH BLOCK, PANCHKULA RANGE + 6 OTHER WORKS	03.03.2020 11.03.2020	1.01 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_Hry_121301_1 + 7 OTHER	dfomorni@gmail.com
19.	DIRECTOR, STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH.	REGARDING PUTTING UP ADVERTISEMENTS ON STANDARDS/ ORDINARY BUSES OF HARYANA ROADWAYS	06.03.2020 30.03.2020	EMD 5 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Director, State Transport Haryana, Chandigarh.

80233/HRY. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in