



Novak Djokovic reacts

Monte Carlo

# Nadal advances, Djoker bows out

Austrian fifth seed Dominic Thiem beat former world number one Novak Djokovic to set up a quarter-final against world No.1 Rafael Nadal today

Monte Carlo

**W**orld number one Rafael Nadal continued his bid for an 11th Monte Carlo Masters title with a 6-3 6-2 win over Russia's Karen Khachanov in the last 16.

The Spaniard, 31, triumphed in an hour 38 minutes against 21-year-old world number 38 Khachanov.

Austrian fifth seed Dominic Thiem beat Novak Djokovic to set up a quarter-final against Nadal on Friday.

Former world number one Djokovic lost 6-7 (2-7) 6-2 6-3 in

an engrossing match.

Nadal, who must win the tournament to prevent Roger Federer from regaining the number one spot, eased past Khachanov to claim his 65th victory at a tournament where he has lost only four matches.

Nadal broke Khachanov's serve at the first attempt and, although he lost his own serve when leading 4-2 in the first set, he broke again in the next game before serving out the set.

Nadal, who is bidding for a 17th Grand Slam title at next month's French Open, raced into

a 4-1 lead in the second set and wrapped up victory on his first match point.

Djokovic has slipped to 13th in the rankings as an elbow injury has restricted him to only four tournaments this year, but he showed glimpses of his best form against Thiem, whom he described as a "top-three player in the world on clay".

Serb Djokovic, a 12-time Grand Slam champion, saved three set points at 5-2 down in the first, breaking back to level at 5-5 and taking the tie-break with his first set point. (BBC)

Rafael Nadal plays a shot



## Serena, Murray on French Open entry list

London

**A**ndy Murray and Serena Williams have both been named on the entry list for the French Open at Roland Garros.

Murray, who has not featured in competition since Wimbledon of last year, has been working his way back from hip surgery and had been tipped for a return to action at Queen's Club in June. But the Brit's presence on the start list suggests his fitness is ahead of schedule.

The 30-year-old has made at least the semi-finals in each of the last four years at the French Open.

Williams has been easing her way back into the game following the birth of her daughter Alexis Olympia, and it was thought she may opt out of the clay court season. But the American has been named on the entry list for the French Open, meaning she could equal Margaret Court's record of 24 Grand Slam titles.

Williams has won three titles at Roland Garros in her career. The French Open runs from 27 May to 10 June, where in the men's tournament Rafa Nadal will be defending his 2017 title and aiming for a remarkable 11th title. (Eurosport)



Serena Williams (file pic)



Andy Murray (file pic)



Anne Keothavong (file pic)

## Fed Cup can't be ignored: Anne Keothavong

London

**G**reat Britain captain Anne Keothavong says the Fed Cup must not be "ignored" while so much "time and energy" is being devoted to Davis Cup reform.

GB will be promoted to the World Group for the first time since 1993 if they beat Japan in a play-off this weekend.

In February, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) announced plans for a new-look Davis Cup.

"I hope the ITF value the Fed Cup as much as the Davis Cup - and give women a chance to shine," said Keothavong.

Unlike the Davis Cup, the World Group of the women's event is currently split into two divisions of eight teams.

Under the current format, the winners of the GB-Japan tie would have to earn another promotion in 2019 to be able to compete for the title in 2020.

"I would like to see a 16-team World Group," Keothavong told BBC Sport after a penultimate day of practice at the Bourbon Beans Dome in Miki, near Kobe.

"I would like to see the ITF do something with the Fed Cup competition which brings it in line with Davis Cup." (BBC)