

## 'JUSTICE FOR BREONNA TAYLOR'

Lewis Hamilton wore a T-shirt demanding justice for Breonna Taylor before and after winning the Tuscan Grand Prix. The British F1 superstar won the incident-packed race for his 90th victory -- one short of Michael Schumacher's record -- and ended his winner's speech by saying: 'Justice for Breonna Taylor'. Hamilton's top -- which he wore when joined by some drivers taking a knee before the race and after while on the podium -- read: 'Arrest the cops who killed Breonna Taylor'. Taylor, 26, was shot dead when officers stormed her apartment in Kentucky on a search warrant for drugs in March. Three officers were involved in the raid, including Detective Brett Hankison, who was fired while the other two were put on leave. But there have been no convictions while her family have continued calling for justice.

--- Agencies



# Not possible to tour under 'historically unique' protocols

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Nazmul Hassan said yesterday that the planned tour of Sri Lanka later this month for three Test matches would not be possible under the Covid-19 health protocols Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) had sent to the BCB the previous day.

Hassan termed the strict health protocols imposed by SLC as "historically unique" and communicated the board's stance to its Sri Lankan counterparts after a meeting of the board directors and high-ups at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

According to the latest health guideline letter sent to the BCB by the SLC, the visitors will have to go on a strict 14-day quarantine after their arrival and during the period they would not even be allowed to go outside their hotel rooms.

The England and Wales Cricket Board had allowed West Indies, Pakistan



Covid-19 situation is tougher than it appears. They are playing domestic cricket there but when it came to us, they are trying to impose these restrictions," Hassan told reporters yesterday.

"We will have our team initially in Dambulla and not in Colombo. Despite that they are not allowing our team members to get out from the room. These terms are surprising. Speaking of practice facilities, they will not provide even the net bowlers and at the same time they are not allowing us to carry any. This is not child's play; this is the ICC Test championship. There is a big difference between their thinking and ours," the BCB boss added.

According to Hassan, the BCB will not wait long for SLC's response and will move towards returning cricket to Bangladesh through domestic competitions.

"We are expecting to hear back from them tomorrow [Tuesday]. We have one simple message to them, the terms they are trying to impose are historically unique. It is not possible to play Test championship under such terms. If they invite us for further discussion, we will see where it heads to," he said.



Hassan's words seemed to have had an effect in Sri Lanka as Namal Rajapaksa, the cabinet minister of youth affairs and sports, tweeted a response to news of Hassan's stance and seemed to be seeking resolve the conflict between the two boards.

"As we all know the #COVID-19 pandemic is still at large globally, prevention measures are a high priority. However, given the significance of #cricket in the region, I have asked @OfficialSLC to consult the Covid task force and reconsider the @BCBTigers matter," he tweeted in the evening yesterday, and added a Bangla translation of the tweet soon afterwards.

### HOW ENGLAND FOLLOWED HEALTH PROTOCOL WHILE HOSTING TEAMS IN PANDEMIC

- Both West Indies and Pakistan were allowed to train during their mandatory 14-day quarantine period and were kept adjacent to their hotels.
- Australia, however, did not have to stay in quarantine for 14 days and started training following several days of quarantine in the UK. The Indian Premier League, which will be held in the UAE, has six-day mandatory quarantine period.
- West Indies had a total of 25 players; Pakistan had an extended squad of 29 players while Australia had a 21-member squad for their UK tours.
- West Indies, Pakistan and Australia were also allowed to play intra-squad matches ahead of their series.

### WHAT SRI LANKA PROPOSED TO BANGLADESH ON HEALTH PROTOCOL

- None of the Bangladesh team members will be allowed to go out from the hotel room for 14 days during the mandatory quarantine period -- not even to have food.
- Earlier the BCB had made a request for a 65-member contingent including the High-Performance squad to arrive in the island which SLC rejected and granted permission for only the national team and officials comprising 30 members. Even the support staff of a touring national team comprises at least 12 members excluding the players, medical and security staff.
- The tight protocol and schedule proposed by the SLC would hardly allow Bangladesh to play any warm-up matches ahead of return to competitive cricket after nearly seven months.

and Australia to continue their training during the quarantine period and even facilitated intra-squad practice matches. The upcoming Indian Premier League, which is set to begin in the UAE, has a six-day mandatory quarantine period.

In addition to that the SLC has also rejected BCB's request to take a 65-member contingent -- including the High Performance squad -- to the island, instead granting permission only for the national team and its officials, comprising 30 members.

"A lot of terms are new to us. Many countries have a seven-day quarantine but the touring team there are allowed to practice. In some places teams are allowed to get to the field after a three-day quarantine. But the terms given by SLC yesterday [Sunday] say none of our team members will even be allowed to go out of their rooms for 14 days. Not even to have a food. We feel there is some reason behind this -- maybe their

## BCB shifts focus to domestic cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board [BCB] president Nazmul Hassan yesterday informed that they are considering starting domestic cricket soon.

The decision came on the back of uncertainty over the national team's scheduled tour of Sri Lanka, with the BCB boss saying it would not be possible for the Tigers to tour Sri Lanka for a three-match Test series under the health protocol set by the host nation.

"We have not thought of an alternative to the Sri Lanka series yet. One thing we want to do is to get cricket back on the field; not sure

if we will have any international team playing with us, but we have ambition to start domestic cricket soon. It is yet to be planned but we will surely have cricket back soon. The coaching staff will stay back; the cricketers are not playing for a long time, so we will plan something," Hassan told media.

Cricket in Bangladesh has been halted since mid-March due to the pandemic. When queried whether the board will resume the club-based Dhaka Premier League, which had got suspended after the first round, Hassan said, "We cannot manage all the clubs now if you ask me, but we will manage

something involving say 40 or 50 players. We will have cricket back on the field; let it be in any form but at the same time we need to ensure their safety from Covid-19. We will have the game at the level we can control and we will have cricket back."

The Cricketer's Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) has called for a meeting today with players regarding the resumption of cricket. Although the resumption of DPL looks highly unlikely, the BCB may plan to start first-class cricket through the National Cricket League or the Bangladesh Cricket League.



Dominic Thiem is all smiles as he holds the US Open trophy while Alexander Zverev (INSET) could not hold back his tears after the defeat in the final.

PHOTO: TWITTER



## 'Achieved a life goal, a dream'

AGENCIES

Dominic Thiem completed an unprecedented comeback on Sunday at the US Open, rallying from two sets down and 3-5 in the fifth set to defeat Alexander Zverev 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(6) for his maiden Grand Slam title.

This was the first US Open final to be decided by a fifth-set tie-break. Thiem, 27, is the first player in the Open Era to rally from two sets down in a US Open final. He also became the first Grand Slam champion born in the 1990s, along with the 55th Grand Slam champion of the Open Era and the 150th of all time.

Thiem says he dedicated his whole life to winning a Grand Slam title and with his victory at the U.S. Open on Sunday the Austrian expects more of the sport's biggest prizes to come his way. Thiem had lost his three

previous Grand Slam finals -- two to Rafa Nadal at the French Open and once to Novak Djokovic in Australia -- and looked as if he had squandered another chance when Alexander Zverev won the first two sets in New York.

But the Austrian staged a stunning comeback to win in a nerve-jangling battle of wills and will now head to the French Open with renewed

This match truly deserved more than one champion and I'm sure that you will also lift this trophy sometimes soon. Thank you for being a great rival and more so for being a real friend on tour. It had to be like this - my career was always like the match today - many ups and downs and I love the way it turned out.

DOMINIC THIEM

confidence.

"I expect it's going to be easier for me now in the biggest tournaments," said Thiem, who became the first player outside Nadal, Djokovic and Roger Federer to claim a Grand Slam title since Stan Wawrinka's 2016 U.S. Open triumph.

"I had it in the back of my head that I had a great career so far, way

I was super close to being a Grand Slam champion. I was a few games away, maybe a few points away. I don't think it's my last chance. I do believe that I will be a Grand Slam champion at some point.

ALEXANDER ZVEREV

better than I could ever dreamt of, but until today there was still a big goal missing.

"With this achieved, I hope that I'm going to be a little bit more relaxed and play a little bit more freely at the biggest events."

Thiem said his triumph in New York was a culmination of years of hard work and sacrifice.

"Definitely achieved a life goal, a dream, which I had for many, many years. Back then it was so far away. Then I got closer to the top and realized that maybe one day I could really win one of the four biggest titles," he added.

"I dedicated basically my whole life until this point to win one. Now I did it. That's for myself, my team and family, a great accomplishment. Today is the day where I gave back huge amount of what they did for me.

## 'No place for racism'

AGENCIES

The latest edition of Paris Saint-Germain vs Marseille will go down in the history books for all the wrong reasons.

Before kick-off at the Parc des Princes, European football fans were hoping for one of the most exciting clashes of the 2020/21 season, which is only two game-weeks deep in France.

Reigning champions PSG were actually entering the game on the back of a shock 1-0 defeat at Lens, while Marseille arrived with three points in their back-pocket after overcoming Brent.

But an ill-tempered Classique ended in a fracas on Sunday, with five players including Neymar, who accused Alvaro of racism, sent off. Thomas Tuchel and Andre Villas-Boas have both expressed their stance against racism in the aftermath of the game and Gonzalez has, of course, issued his own response now.

"I don't know. I hope not, there is no place for racism in football. It's a serious fault if it happened but I don't think so. Before that, we had a situation with a spit from Di Maria. These are things to avoid in the world of football. I hope it won't be a black spot in this historic performance," Marseille boss Andre Villas-Boas said in an interview with Telefoot.

"What I heard? He [Neymar] told me that it was some racist insult, but I did not hear anything on the pitch," Paris Saint-Germain coach Tuchel said. When made aware of Neymar's social media post, Tuchel replied: "I think that everyone has the same opinion that racism in all the society, in sports or in our lives can't exist. It's obvious.

### TUSSLES ON TWITTER



Neymar seemingly accused Alvaro of racism when speaking to the fourth official as he left the field, replays showing him to have struck the defender in the back of the head.

After the game, Neymar posted on Twitter, writing he should have struck the Marseille man in the face. "The only regret I have is that I didn't hit this a\*\*\*\*\* in the face," he wrote.

The Brazil star followed up by saying he had been called a "monkey mother\*\*\*\*\*."

But Alvaro Gonzalez dismissed allegations of racism in a post of his own on Twitter.

"There is no place for racism," he wrote. "Clean race and with many colleagues and friends on a daily basis. Sometimes you have to learn to lose and take it on the field."

Neymar then tweeted again, this time replying directly to Gonzalez, saying:

"You are not a man to admit your mistake, losing is part of the sport. Now insulting and bringing racism into our lives no, I don't agree. I don't respect you! Admit what you said."



Paris St. Germain's Argentine midfielder Leandro Paredes floored Olympique Marseille's Spanish defender Alvaro Gonzalez, leading to a massive brawl towards the end of this heated Ligue 1 fixture in Paris on Sunday. Five players, including PSG forward Neymar, were sent off and a total of 17 cards were brandished during the course of this match which the visitors won 1-0.

## Defeat a punch in the guts, says Warne

AGENCIES

England won the second ODI by 24 runs to level their three-match series against Australia after the visitors, chasing a modest target of 232, suffered a dramatic collapse on Sunday.

Shane Warner has called Australia's defeat a punch in the guts.

"Australia hadn't played cricket for quite a long time so you sort of excuse them [that collapse] in the first T20, even though it cost them that series. They have been pretty good since then but this will be a real punch in the guts for Australia. They pride themselves on getting over the line in those sorts of games and doing the basics well," Warne told Sky Sports.

"They didn't do that - they weren't good enough, with Aaron Finch the only batsman to really show any touch. It's 1-1 ahead of the last day of the international summer. Who writes these scripts?" he added.

The third and final ODI will be held tomorrow at Old Trafford.

## Ancelotti praises Rodriguez

REUTERS, LONDON

Everton's impressive 1-0 victory at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday was their first against them for eight years but of greater significance was the impact of their new signings.

Colombian playmaker James Rodriguez, who burst into the limelight at the 2014 World Cup before signing for Real Madrid, was a major coup for Everton when he signed this week.

Carlo Ancelotti described his team's performance as brilliant and picked out Rodriguez, a player he worked with at Real Madrid, for particular praise.