

Dutch women win Champions Trophy

AFP, Buenos Aires

World champions the Netherlands scored a deserved 1-0 win over hosts Argentina late Sunday in the final of the women's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament.

The winning goal came from a short corner after just two minutes with Maartje Paumen converting.

Argentina steadied the ship and tried to hit back for the equaliser but, like the other teams here, they found it hard going to break down the disciplined Dutch defence.

It was the same scenario in the second half with the lively South Americans launching wave after wave of attacks but seldom managing to threaten Kim Lammers in the Dutch goal.

Argentina coach Gabriel Minadeo said he had been pleased with the way his team had performed which gave him confidence ahead of the qualifications for next year's Olympic Games in Beijing.

"It was important for us to get this medal here, but we must immediately put it away and start working hard for what lies ahead," he said.

Reigning Olympic champions Germany were too strong for a tired-looking Australian team in the play-off for third place and they dominated throughout.

Goals from Janine Beermann after nine minutes and Silja Lorenzen after 52 minutes did the damage.

Japan earlier had taken fifth place defeating Spain 2-0 with two goals from Rika Komozawa.

Farhat escapes reprimand

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan's Imran Farhat has been found not guilty of breaching the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct during his side's ongoing second Test against South Africa in Port Elizabeth.

The charge, laid by the four umpires on duty, on-field officials Billy Doctrove and Peter Parker, third umpire Rudi Koertzen and fourth umpire Brian Jerling, related to an incident on the first day of the Test, on Friday.

Farhat claimed a catch from batsman Ashwell Prince which was referred to the third official because Doctrove and Parker were unsure whether the batsman had played the ball into the ground or his boot before it reached the fielder.

When Koertzen studied television replays of the incident he noticed the ball had, in fact, not carried to Imran, and when all the umpires had the chance to view the footage at close of play it was decided that a charge should be laid.

But after considering the evidence, ICC match referee Chris Broad decided that Farhat had no case to answer.

Abahani cross

FROM PAGE 17

But earlier, Mashrafe's new ball partner Ziaur Rahman gave Abahani a perfect start by removing openers Tamim Iqbal (31 off 27 balls) and Mehrab Hossain (8).

Both Mashrafe and Mahmud were later called for hearings for showing their tempers and using 'abusing languages' with the umpires. Each were fined Tk 5,000 but the match officials seemed to get the benefit of doubt despite poor umpiring.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ABAHANI: 262-8 in 50 overs (Zahurul 18, Kuntal 7, Nazimuddin 40, Tushar 77, Abbas 42, Mashrafe 26, Ziaur 4, Shuvo 23, Shahjada 1 n.o., extras 24, Shahadat 2-57, Mahmud 1-32, Fernando 2-39, Razzak 1-61, Mehrab 1-29).

DOHS: 228 all out in 46 overs (Tamim 31, Mehrab 8, Fernando 17, Ehsanul 57, Akram 28, Nadif 35, Mahmud 11, Shahin 0, Razzak 24, Shahadat 0, Enamul 1 n.o., extras 16, Mashrafe 1-24, Ziaur 2-51, Shahjada 3-63, Shuvo 3-19, Tushar 1-24).

Result: Abahani won by 34 runs.

Martina, Kim

FROM PAGE 20

Schneider of Switzerland with a 6-4, 6-1 triumph.

"I started very slow today," Chakvetadze said. "But you have to get used to patty's game because she plays with so much spin. (The) ball is bouncing so high here.

"Vodafone (arena) is a little bit different court because I played (the) outside courts (for) all my matches. I just had to get used to it. Then I found my rhythm and played better."

Chakvetadze will meet top-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova, who posted a 7-5, 6-4 victory over number 22 Vera Zvonareva.

"I thought I definitely stepped it up," Sharapova said. "I had to. I felt like I was a lot looser. I was going for my shots a bit more. I felt like I was a little tentative in my previous matches just trying to find my rhythm. Today when I came on the court, I knew she was going to be a challenge. I just had to go out there and step up to it."



PHOTO: AFP

Minke Booij (C) of Netherlands holds up the trophy as her teammates celebrate after defeating Argentina in the Champions Trophy hockey final in Buenos Aires on Sunday.

Woolmer wants Eng job



BBC ONLINE, undated

Bob Woolmer has openly declared an interest in becoming England coach.

The 58-year-old is currently in charge of the Pakistan team but his current contract expires at the end of the World Cup in April.

"I have always been proud of playing for England and just missed out on coaching them (in the past) because the timing was not right," he said.

"I was part of a side that beat Australia as a player and have a yearning to do so as a coach."

At present, there is no coaching vacancy with England and the England and Wales Cricket Board

said discussions about the position of Duncan Fletcher will not be part of the remit for the review group set up to review the team's progress over the past four years.

But in the wake of the team's 5-0 defeat in Australia, the first Ashes whitewash for over 80 years, Fletcher has promised to review his position before the start of the county season.

Should he decided to end his tenure after seven years in charge, there would be no shortage of high-profile candidates.

John Wright and Tom Moody are two names which have been mentioned in connection with the post, but no-one can match Woolmer's experience, as his career also includes a successful spell as South Africa's coach in the 1990s.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has

indicated its desire to tie Woolmer to a new contract, but in a BBC interview last week, he indicated he would be "open to offers" after the World Cup.

But speaking to The Times newspaper, he made it clear it was the England job which would be of most interest if it becomes vacant.

Woolmer agrees with former England batsman Geoff Boycott's opinion that coaches generally have a "short shelf life" in international cricket.

He believes, however, that he can continue doing the job until he is at least 65 and said: "Coaching is my life. It is what I do best and I am keeping fit through hitting catches and walking for 45 minutes every day, and swimming 1,200 metres every other day."

'Aussies beatable'



AFP, Perth

Australia's shaky performances in their last two triangular series one-day matches have boosted England's and New Zealand's belief that the home side is beatable.

The Aussies are still on course for an unbeaten summer and their narrow two-wicket win over the Black Caps at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday was their eighth successive victory in one-day internationals.

But New Zealand arguably cost themselves an upset win with three fielding blunders.

Australia's uncertain performances, particularly their top order frailty in the last two games, have left New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming convinced that the right game plan can undo the World Cup favourites.

England seamer Jon Lewis, who claimed four wickets against the Australians last Friday, echoed

Fleming's sentiments and said his side believed they could beat Australia.

"They're definitely not unbeatable," Lewis said Monday in Adelaide ahead of his side's clash with the Kiwis.

"They're a very, very good side and full of very good players, but I think we can beat them definitely. The game against Australia on Friday is definitely a game we can win."

"The guys are very confident, we've got great spirits in the camp and we're all keen to win a game against Australia."

"They're playing good cricket at the moment, but we need to just keep fighting, scrapping because we've really fought hard in the games we've played, and if we keep scrapping we will turn a result around against them."

But England have an important clash Tuesday against New Zealand at the Adelaide Oval before they can focus on the Australians.

An England victory would put them in a very strong position to

reach the tri-series finals, as they would be two wins ahead of the Kiwis.

Despite being winless, the Kiwis are themselves growing in confidence.

Buoyed by their narrow loss to the Australians, they are set to regain imposing all-rounder Jacob Oram for Tuesday's game after a hamstring strain.

Seamer Kyle Mills, who has been sidelined by a knee problem, has also joined the squad in Australia and could play in Adelaide.

Mills conceded it was a must-win game for the Black Caps.

"It's a pretty crucial game for us, if we can win we'll be back on level terms with England and then have four games to go," Mills said.

"There's still a fair bit of the series to go but this one is very important for us for the rest of it."

Fast bowler Shane Bond is expected to recover from back soreness to be fit for the clash with Australia in Perth on Sunday.

Shah lifts Kenya



CRICINFO, undated

Ravi Shah's fighting century proved the difference as Kenya held their nerve to beat Scotland for the second time this competition. Shah rescued Kenya from the mire at 90 for 5, after they lost five wickets for 23, to lift them to 259. Steve Tikolo then needed all of his experience to produce a vital three wicket-burst which staved off a determined Scotland assault with the bat, as Kenya won by seven runs.

After Kenya chose to bat, Shah had his work cut out when all about him were losing their heads, but he kept his and put on a crucial 117 with Thomas Oduyo for the sixth

wicket.

Inspired by Shah, the tail gave him full support and Kenya managed to bat all of their overs as Shah smashed his way to 113 from 121 balls. His knock included eight fours and three sixes. Oduyo added 36, and each of those runs was vital.

Kenya's innings started brightly enough, with Maurice Ouma and David Obuya sharing an opening stand of 67. But Ouma's run out on 14 triggered a collapse as five wickets fell in quick succession.

At this stage Scotland would have fancied their chances of killing off the innings early and hunting down a revenge win against Kenya, who beat them in the first round of this competition. But Shah wasn't going to give up -- and he turned the

innings on its head.

Scotland then had a mountain to climb and they were doing well in scaling the heights, their openers, Fraser Watts and Majid Haq, putting on 99. Both made 59. They continued to rack up the runs and were well set at 217 for 3 when Tikolo turned things around for Kenya. He grabbed the next three wickets for no runs, puncturing Scotland's momentum so thoroughly that they were unable to recover.

BRIEF SCORES

KENYA: 259-9 in 50 overs (Shah 113, Brown 3-37)

SCOTLAND: 252 for 8 in 50 overs (Watts 59, Haq 59, Tikolo 4-41)

Result: Kenya won by seven runs.

Akhtar, Gul to go home

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistani fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Umar Gul will return home from South Africa after sustaining injuries on the tour, an official said on Monday.

"Shoaib has been ruled out of action for at least two weeks with a grade one hamstring tear and has also developed fluid in his knee," Saleem Altaf, Pakistan's director of cricket operations told Reuters.

Shoaib played his first Test in 11 months at Port Elizabeth last week and took four wickets in South Africa's first innings but the injury prevented him from bowling in the second innings.

Altaf said Gul had sustained an ankle injury which had not healed completely.

"Both the players would be examined by a medical commission when they return home," he said.

He said it was unlikely they would be available for the one-day series in South Africa next month.

Altaf also said team manager Talat Ali had held a disciplinary hearing after television cameras captured Shoaib in an altercation with coach Bob Woolmer in the dressing room before the start of play on the second day on Saturday.

"The manager has taken appropriate action and Akhtar has been fined," he added.

He said the selectors would decide if any replacements would be sent to South Africa.

Shoaib was cleared of a doping offence last month.

Chappell comes under attack

AFP, Bhubaneswar

India's cricket coach Greg Chappell was on Monday assaulted by a fan who was angry about player selection.

Chappell, a former Australian captain, was pushed and hit on the back as the Indian team arrived in Bhubaneswar in the eastern state of Orissa to play a one-day international against the West Indies.

Indian cricket board vice-president Rajiv Shukla said that the 58-year-old Chappell was unhurt and had been immediately rushed into the team bus stationed outside the airport gate.

"My information is that Greg has not been hurt but this is a serious security lapse on part of the Orissa police," said Shukla, speaking from New Delhi.

"We have demanded that the state government increase security for the two teams."

The attacker, identified as Biranchi Maharana by local officials, was arrested soon after the incident.

"I am angry with Chappell because no player from Orissa has been included in the national team," Maharana shouted to reporters before being whisked away in a police jeep.

Bhubaneswar police official Amitabh Thakur said security had been tightened for the teams after the incident.

"There is nothing to worry about," Thakur told reporters. "The airport was busy since three flights had landed around the same time and the offender mixed with the passengers who were coming out of the terminal."

Chappell declined to comment on the incident. "I have nothing to say," he told reporters.

Chappell, who took over as Indian coach in June 2005 for a two-year term, has faced close scrutiny in a cricket-mad nation desperate to see its team succeed on the international scene.

The second one-dayer will be played in neighbouring Cuttack on Wednesday. India won the first game in Nagpur on Sunday to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

Bopara's turn

FROM PAGE 17

someone like myself hopefully has a lot of knowledge and wisdom to give these young lads.

"I enjoy chatting to them, as when I was youngster I had the likes of David Gower, Jon Agnew, Les Taylor, Phil DeFreitas talking to me at Leicestershire -- I think it's important everyone tries to pass on the knowledge.

"There is time, particularly on tours like this where there is one-on-one time when players are travelling on aircraft, to sit and talk and that is vital for English cricket."

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Flintoff (captain), Mal Loye, Andrew Strauss, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Ravindra Bopara, Jamie Dalrymple, Paul Nixon, James Anderson, Jon Lewis, Monty Panesar, Chris Tremlett, Ed Joyce, Sajid Mahmood, Liam Plunkett, Chris Read.

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Andre Adams, Nathan Aslie, James Franklin, Peter Fulton, Mark Gillespie, Brendan McCullum, Craig McMillan, Hamish Marshall, Michael Mason, Jeetan Patel, Ross Taylor, Daniel Vettori, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram.



AP, Melbourne

NOTE TO SERENA WILLIAMS' FEET: Keep moving like that, and you'll get a nice gift.

The seven-time Grand Slam winner's latest match on the come-back trail from injury included a deft pirouette to reach a half-volley and slam a winner, and lots of running during several long baseline rallies.

The 6-3, 6-2 win against 11th-seeded Jelena Jankovic puts Williams into the quarterfinals of the Australian Open for the fourth time. And it comes at a time when many people thought she would still be struggling to get her game to click.

Asked how it felt to have her body respond to what her brain asked it to do, she replied: "Awesome. I had a long talk with my body, and we agreed that if you get through these tournaments I'll give them surprises."

Like what?

"Dresses or something, shoes."

Williams, the 2005 Australian Open winner, returned to defend her title last year but lost in the third round. She took six months off with a nagging left knee problem, returning for the U.S. Open, where she lost in the fourth round.

CHATTIN' FASHION: Jim Courier and Andy Roddick chatted about fashion before a packed centre court crowd at the Australian Open on Sunday.

Courier, acting as on-court interviewer in the men's featured matches, was momentarily lost for words after asking Roddick a few questions about his 6-3, 3-6, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 third-round win against Croatia's Mario Ancic.

"OK, last question for you is, uh ... what do you want to talk about?" said Courier, who won two French and two Australian Open titles and had a 58-week run as world No. 1 in the early 1990s.

Roddick, riding high after new

SECRETS

coach and another former American champion Jimmy Connors made it to Australia to watch his past two hard-fought matches to reach the fourth round, didn't skip a beat.

"I don't know, you're doing such a good job in the booth, your hair looks nice," Roddick told Courier. "You've come a long way since the striped shirt and the shorts that were way too short. I'm glad that someone's finally dressing you."

"Thanks for the fashion tips," replied Courier, dressed in pinstriped pants and a deep blue shirt. "Wait 'til you retire ... you can dress this well too."

ISRAELI HEROINE: Shahar Peer became just the second Israeli to reach the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam on Sunday with a career-best win over third-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova at the Australia Open.

The 19-year-old Peer, seeded 16th, slammed 22 winners and served just one double fault to defeat Kuznetsova 6-4, 6-2 and set up her first appearance in the finals of a Grand Slam, against Serena Williams.

"I'm just going to go out there and give everything I have," said Peer, who cracked the top 20 last year for the first time and is now ranked 17th. "I have nothing to lose."

Peer is the first Israeli to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal since Amos Mansdorf reached at the 1992 Australian Open, where he lost to eventual champion Jim Courier.

HARD ROAD: Ashley Harkleroad was a set ahead and 4-0 in the second when Daniela Hantuchova threw caution to the wind.

"She just started slapping it," said Harkleroad, after eventually losing to the 15th-seeded Slovakian 7-6 (6), 5-7, 3-6. "She was just reeling off shots one after the other, like she didn't really care, and they were all going in."

Harkleroad, unseeded here, said she lost her rhythm when Hantuchova began landing winners from all over the court -- and blew a chance for her first fourth-round appearance in a Grand Slam.

"I got a little bit tight, and that's it," she said. "I should have won that match, period."

Hantuchova, who beat defending champion Serena Williams in the third round of the Australian Open last year, said she recovered by focussing on each point.

"I was just waiting for my game to come, and it did," she said.

Hantuchova next faces No. 4 Kim Clijsters.

STOGIE SIN: Marat Safin's crack about the Australian Open's tournament referee being a cigar-smoking bureaucrat has cost him 2,000 dollars.

Safin was cited for verbal abuse after an on-court outburst during his losing third-round match Friday against Andy Roddick, when he complained about being told to play despite small puddles of water from a rain shower outside the double lines.

Tournament referee Wayne McKewen examined the court and insisted play resume, prompting Safin, who won here in 2005, to gripe to chair umpire Pascal Maria: "The guy comes in, never in his life plays tennis, and tells me it's OK. I could be slipping. The guy is sitting there, smoking a cigar..." Safin finished the sentence by mouthing an expletive.

Australian Lleyton Hewitt joined the players whose on-court indiscretions have cost them money at the tournament, after being fined 2,000 dollars for an audible obscenity in his second-round match against Canada's Frank Dancevic. Hewitt lost his third-round match to Fernando Gonzalez.

Injury blow

FROM PAGE 20

In Cesc Fabregas's cross seven minutes from full-time and set Arsenal on course for their dramatic late win but, in doing so, he broke his toe.

Gunners boss Arsene Wenger, who saluted van Persie's strike, admitted he feared his player would be out for a significant length of time.

He said: "There is a big worry on Robin van Persie. He had scored a great goal because first of all (Tomas) Rosicky and (Cesc) Fabregas fight like mad on the side for the ball, then they get the ball in and Robin comes from a very deep position and scores an unbelievable goal, but he can deliver that."

Ganguly

FROM PAGE 17

To ensure watertight security at the hotel, the proprietors have not booked any guest not connected to the match and also reduced staff strength till Thursday, the day the teams are slated to leave the town.

"We will be housing only players, officials and other dignitaries till the match," said a hotel official.

At the Barabati, private security agency personnel would be deployed in addition to the regular police force to prevent any breach.

Cuttack deputy superintendent of police Kumamani Meher said five assistant superintendents of police, 19 deputy superintendents, 38 inspectors, 300 sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors along with 38 platoons of armed police are being pressed into service, with Inspector General (Law and order) being the overall in-charge.

The security drill was started a week back and sniffer dogs have been used to sanitise the stadium, being guarded by armed personnel round the clock.

To prevent any crowd trouble on match day, four Quick Reaction Teams, apart from specialised response units of Orissa State Armed Police would be on duty.

Pakistan level with SA

FROM PAGE 17

from Nel, and the introduction of the accurate Shaun Pollock brought a dramatic change.

With his fourth ball from the northern Duck Pond end Ntini dismissed the left-handed Imran Farhat whose flying edge from a slashed shot was well caught above his head by Jacques Kallis at second slip.

Two overs later new batsman Yasir Hameed pushed Ntini into the covers and went for a risky single. Nel ran in from mid-off, picked up and hit the stumps at the bowler's end for Hameed to be run out.

Mohammad Hafeez, who had started the day confidently but was tied down by Pollock, was third out for 32 when he played across the line against Pollock and was given out leg before by umpire Peter Parker, although replays indicated the ball would have just missed leg stump.

It was Pollock's 415th Test wicket, moving him into eighth place alone on the all-time list, one ahead of former Pakistan left-arm Vusim Akram.

Yousuf, playing in his first Test of the year after setting a Test run scoring record in 2006, survived a good over from Ntini in which he was twice beaten outside the off

stump as he and Younis set about building a partnership.

Younis gave a difficult low return chance to Pollock when he had five.

There was nearly a second run-out three overs before the interval when Yousuf took a quick single to cover and Younis Khan narrowly beat Ashwell Prince's underhand flick on to the stumps.

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard on the fourth day of the second Test between South Africa and Pakistan at St George's Park on Monday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 124

PAKISTAN: First innings 265

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 331

PAKISTAN: Second innings (over-

night 8-0)

Hafeez lbw b Pollock 32

Farhat c Kallis b Ntini 7

Hameed run out (Nel) 6

Younis Khan not out 67

Yousuf c Gibbs b Pollock 18

Inzamam lbw b Ntini 51

Akmal not out 17

Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-1) 3

Total: (For 5 wks in 57.3 overs) 191

Fall of wks: 1-29, 2-35, 3-48, 4-87, 5-92.

Bowler

Nel 19 2 63 0

Ntini 14 6