

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 remained 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

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

Both Mashrafee 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 7, Abbas 24, Mashrafee 26, Ziaur 4, Shuvo 23, Shahjada 1 n.o., extras 24, Shahadat 2-51, Mahmud 1-32, Fernando 2-39, Razzaq 1-61, Mehrab 1-29).

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

Result: Abahani won by 34 runs.

Martina, Kim

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Schnyder 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."

Frederic Giuly added Barca's second midway through the second half from close range and Andres Iniesta hit the third with a crisp effort.

Barcelona coach Frank

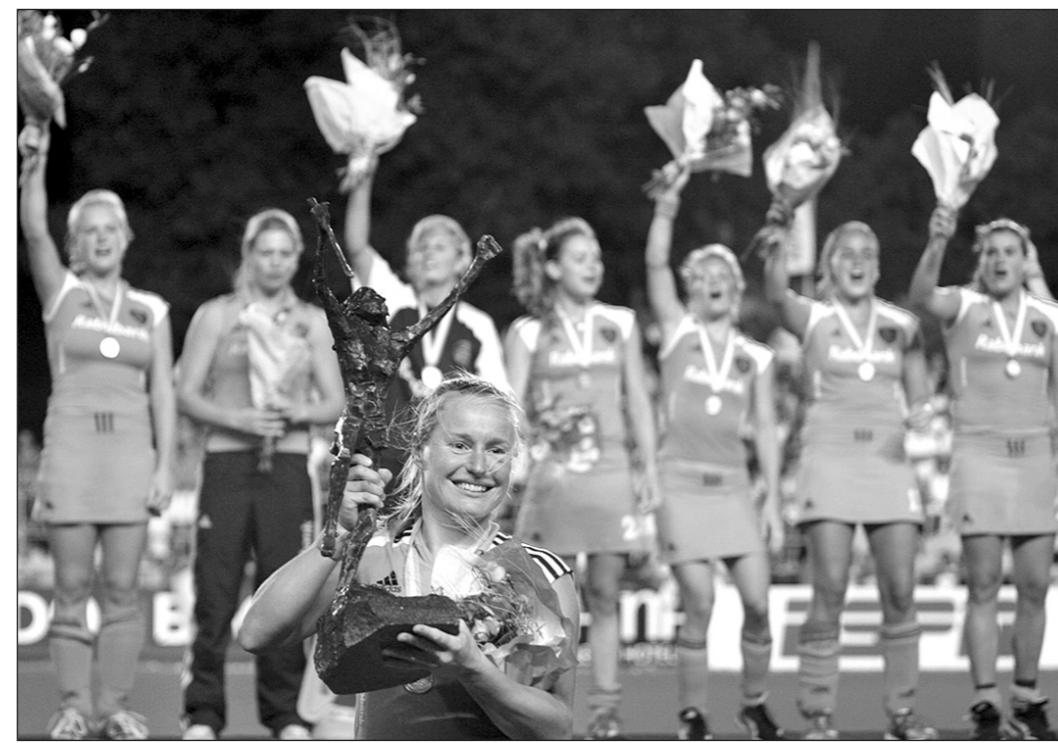


PHOTO: AFP

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

Cricket

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

say 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 decide 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."

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

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

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.

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 is one very important for us for the rest of it."

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

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'Aussies beatable'

Cricket

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.

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Shah lifts Kenya

Cricket

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.

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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.

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.

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The second one-day 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.

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