

Martyn joins rebel league

CRICINFO, undated

Damien Martyn, the former Australia batsman, has signed for the breakaway Indian Cricket League, according to Australia's Daily Telegraph newspaper on Sunday.

Martyn, who retired from cricket midway through the Ashes series last December, has been linked to the ICL for two weeks but his manager initially said that the league was "not for him". However, an agreement was struck on Friday between the ICL bosses and Martyn who, the newspaper claims, is excited about playing alongside Brian Lara who was the first international to sign up with the league.

"It's a chance just too good to miss," he told the Daily Telegraph. "It's a chance also to play in a team captained by Warne."

Neither Shane Warne or Glenn McGrath -- who, like Martyn, have retired from international cricket -- have fully nailed their colours to ICL's mast, though rumours continue to fly that both will sign up in the near future.

Martyn shocked Australia last December when he retired from all forms of cricket in the middle of the Ashes. After four weeks of silence, he finally revealed his reasoning behind his departure and said he had "never been comfortable with the whole celebrity stuff that comes with the game, I found (it) hard to deal with," while adding that he can "now go and live life and enjoy it".

He insisted, however, that the ICL would have minimal impact on his personal life.

"It's only six weeks each summer," he said, "which wouldn't have the same burdens of playing for long periods of time away from home."

Ramgarh into semis in style

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagacchari

Four goals from Sujon and Saiful's hattrick was enough to put Ramgarh to the semifinals of the DC Gold Cup Football competition after they thrashed Laxmichhari 8-0 at the Khagacchari Stadium here yesterday.

With five goals in the first-half and three more in the second, Ramgarh joined hosts Khagacchari, Dighinala and Manikchhari in the last four.

Sujon completed his hattrick in the first 45 minutes, but Saiful, who also hit three, finished off the scoring in the final minute of the match.

Stars blitz

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Adviser's relief fund.

All earnings plus some individual donations will be handed over to the Chief Adviser by the organisers today.

The men and women, who live in the world of deception, however, would be happier as they kept their promise of winning their match by 'hook or crook'. The movie celebrities defeated an unimpressive veteran footballers' team 3-0 with Manna, Amin Khan and an unidentified star scoring all three goals with their hands.

The new generation: Shabnur, Poppy, Mousumi, Poomima, Jona, Nodi, Ferdous, Shakib, Amin, Alexander Bo; a few older ones: Subrata, Manna, Ali Raj, Rubel, Amit Hassan, Omar Sunny, Bappa Raj; 'infamous' villains: Nisha, Miju, Kabilia; and veterans like Anis and Notun were there.

But there was no one like the king himself: Razzaq.

The living legend, despite undergoing a gall bladder surgery last Monday, showed true spirit by attending the razzmatazz. Clad in red shirt, jeans and a stylish panama hat, the former goalkeeper of the 'film star' team glowed as usual.

The night was rounded off with a cultural show.

Murcia move

FROM PAGE 20

who volleyed into the left-hand corner of the Zaragoza net.

The equaliser came when Ricardo Oliveira was on hand to slot home his second goal for Zaragoza in two games since his summer arrival from AC Milan.

Real Murcia moved provisionally top of the Primera Liga following a creditable goalless draw away to Levante.

In what turned out to be a low quality match for the crowd of just over 12,000 spectators, the home side dominated but created little of note as Murcia defended resolutely.

Liverpool

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Liverpool by giving the Hammers a sixth minute lead and then teed up Matthew Etherington for their second, four minutes after the restart. Etherington completed the win with his second of the afternoon, in the final minute.

A frustrating afternoon for Reading was summed up when Ireland striker Kevin Doyle had a penalty saved by Robert Green.

First-half goals from David Wheater and Stewart Downing saw Middlesbrough ease to a comfortable win over Birmingham.



American Bernard Lagat celebrates after winning the men's 5000m gold at the 11th IAAF World Athletics Championships in Osaka yesterday.

Hall does the inevitable

AFP, Johannesburg

Andrew Hall, the leading South African wicket-taker at the World Cup this year, has joined the rebel Indian Cricket League (ICL).

Hall snatched 14 wickets at the World Cup in the West Indies, including five in the victory over England that clinched a semi-finals slot for the Proteas'.

But despite fulfilling a number of important national team roles, including wicketkeeper, opening batsmen and "death" bowler, Johannesburg-based Hall never established a permanent place.

Hall represented his country in 21 Tests and 88 one-day internationals and the Johannesburg Star said he opted for India after failing to make the squad for the inaugural World Twenty20 championship in South Africa this month.

Ironically, an image of Hall is among those placed on billboards nationwide to publicise an event that has captured the imagination of South Africans with many fixtures sold out.

Former South Africa players Lance Klusener and Nicky Boje have joined the ICL Twenty20 competition scheduled to start in India next month with Brian Lara of the West Indies and Inzamam ul-Haq of Pakistan the 'big catches'.



New chief selector Rafiqul Alam (R) hands over a bouquet of flowers to his predecessor Faruque Ahmed during a farewell ceremony at the board's management office in Gulshan yesterday.

Lagat runs into history

Athletics

AFP, Osaka

Bernard Lagat Sunday made history by becoming the first man to win both the 5,000m and 1,500m world titles, as Jeremy Wariner and Allyson Felix added more gold to their bulging collections.

Kenyan-born Lagat, who gained US citizenship two years ago but only recently became eligible to compete for them after a mandatory wait under international rules, muscled his way past Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge to win on the line.

The 32-year-old, who won the Olympic bronze in 2000 and the silver in 2004 for Kenya, charged at the bell to clock a time of 13 minutes 45.87 seconds.

Uganda's Moses Ndiema Kipsiro placed third.

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"At 600m, I felt so relaxed that I felt I could win. So I unleashed my last kick with 100m to go, but I was not sure I actually won the gold by the time I crossed the line."

Ethiopian-born Maryam Yusuf Jamal, now running for Bahrain, clinched the women's 1,500m world title in a time of 3 minutes 58.75 seconds ahead of Russia's Yelena Soboleva and Ukraine's Iryna Lishchynska.

Jamal was literally bundled out of a medal at the last world championships when a nudge sent her reeling with 250 metres to go, and she was ecstatic at making up for that disappointment.

"This makes up for Helsinki, where I was in good shape but I was pushed," she said. "I'm certain that if that hadn't happened, even if I didn't win, I would have medalled then."

The championships ended with the United States topping the medal table with 14 gold, ahead of Kenya on five and Russia on four, but the

final day was marred by an "abnormal" doping test.

World athletics chief Lamine Diack would not reveal the name, nationality or the discipline of the athlete involved while the testing procedure is still ongoing.

Kenyan Alfred Yego claimed his country's first 800m title since 1993 when he stormed to the finish in 1 minute 47.09 seconds ahead of Canada's Gary Reed and Russia's Yury Borzakovskiy.

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Croatia's Blanka Vlasic has been without peer this year and she made that plain in winning the high jump, clearing 2.05 metres.

Russia's Anna Chicherova was second with a personal best 2.03 and Italy's Antonietta Di Martino was third.

The 23-year-old has now won 12 of her 13 competitions outdoors this year.

Finland's Tero Pitkamaki claimed the men's javelin gold with a throw of 90.33 metres, beating Norway's Andreas Thorkildsen into silver and American Breaux Greer into bronze.

Earlier, Kenya's Catherine Ndereba, 35, won what she called the toughest race of her career to claim the women's marathon title.

She held off China's world number one Zhou Chunxu for her second world crown following her triumph in 2003, finishing in two hours thirty minutes.

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silver medalist LaShawn Merritt and bronze winner Angelo Taylor, to victory in 2 minutes 55.56 seconds.

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Uganda stun Kenya

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Uganda stunned hosts Kenya to claim a thrilling two-wicket win in the third match of the Twenty20 Quadrangular tournament at Nairobi.

Chasing 133 to win, Uganda got off to a poor start when Roger Mukasa was bowled by Thomas Odoyo off the second ball of the innings. But wicketkeeper Lawrence Sematima's counterattacking 42 laid the platform for their victory. He pulled Odoyo over deep square leg before turning his attention to Lameck Onyango, who was bowled for 16 runs in the fifth over, including a six over deep midwicket.

Joel Olwenyi, who came in after the other opener, Arthur Kyobe, was dismissed for two, slogged Jimmy Kamande over long-on, but Sematima fell against the run of play when he mis-timed a sweep to be trapped lbw in the same over.

Olwenyi hit Hiren Varaiya for two sixes in the next over before getting out for 24.

Kamande leaked 14 runs from his third over as Raymond Otieno went on the offensive. It didn't help Kenya's cause when Otieno was dropped by Varaiya when he was on two for two as he launched Kamande for a six over long-on off the next ball. Uganda were then comfortably positioned, needing 24 for 24 balls.

But Otieno was caught by Rajesh Budhia when going for yet another six off Odoyo's bowling. Steve Tikolo removed Jeremy Kibukamusoke and Emmanuel Isanze in the 18th over as the match headed towards a thrilling

finish.

Nandi Patel swung the match in Uganda's favour when he hit a four and a six in the 19th over bowled by Odongo. It was sealed when Davis Arinaithe lofted Odoyo over long-off for a single on the penultimate ball of the match.

Earlier, Kenya, riding on a 58-run stand for the fourth wicket between Tikolo and Odoyo, scored 132, after being put in by Olwenyi.

Uganda managed to stifle the runs -- 28 balls went without a boundary -- before Collins Obuya sent an Isanze delivery over the deep midwicket boundary. Tikolo then took centre stage after Obuya holed out to Kibukamusoke, striking Olwenyi to the cover boundary before bring up his half century with a slog sweep over deep square leg. Odoyo joined in the assault with consecutive fours in Arinaithe's last over. The Tikolo-Odoyo combination soon crossed the 50-run mark.

But Kenya could not accelerate as three wickets fell in the last two overs. Odoyo was the first to go, nicking Olwenyi to Sematima for 27. Kamuya captured the remaining two wickets in the final over of the Kenya innings; Tikolo hoing out to Musaka at deep midwicket and Kamande driving the ball straight into the hands of Otieno in the covers.

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