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Did U Know?

The outgoing holders of the UEFA Champions League are AC Milan, who beat Liverpool FC 2-1 at the Olympic Stadium in Athens, Greece on May 23, 2007.



Nemanja Vidic
(Manchester United's Serbian star)
"He's a great player and he's a top scorer. It's a hard job to stop him." On Didier Drogba.



SET Max
Indian Premier League
Kolkata Knight Riders v Rajasthan Royals
Live from 8:30pm
ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

Baishakhi gets Arthur Ashe Jr award

UNB, Dhaka

Shafat Nusrat Baishakhi became the first Bangladeshi to achieve the Arthur Ashe Jr Collegiate Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship, 2008, in America.

This award is given every year by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) of America under the supervision of United States Tennis Association (USTA).

Former Bangladesh national tennis champion Baishakhi has been chosen for this category for her singles and doubles records in the ITA, her academic career results, sportsmanship, leadership and character.

Participants from some 50 educational institutions of America were the nominees for this year's award.

Baishakhi, now studying Information System Analysis at the Lewis Clark University, will formally receive her award at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Stadium during the US

French Open miss disappoints Sania

PTI, New Delhi

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza has expressed disappointment over her missing this year's French Open -- second Grand Slam of the year -- because of a prolonged wrist injury.

It would be for the first time that the Hyderabad will not be in action in a Grand Slam event since playing Australian Open in 2005, when made a third round exit.

"I am naturally disappointed at missing the French Open but there are certain things beyond one's control and I hope to be back on the circuit soon," Sania said in a statement yesterday.

Ranked 33 in WTA singles chart and 19 in doubles, Sania, out of action since March, had undergone a surgery on April 10 in Florida to repair a capsule tear on her right wrist.

The cast was removed on May 5 and she has been undergoing rehab under her personal physiotherapist Renuka Pinto.

Now the Indian challenge in the Roland Garros this year would be confined to men's doubles with Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi appearing with different partners.

Footballers anxious

SPORTS REPORTER

After the 'elite' footballers' anger was initially defused by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials on Sunday, it was the turn of the 'commoners' to express their anguish and concern.

About 25 footballers -- ex-nationals, recent discards and some young and promising -- gathered at the Dhaka University ground yesterday to protest the decision of the Dhaka clubs to go for the so-called 'gentlemen's agreement'.

Although the clubs have denied any such pact among them, the players feel that there is something negative in the move by the clubs that will bring a financial disaster for them in the coming season.

"There are many players here who were victims of the pool-system and 'gentlemen's agreement' in the past. It is so damaging that a national booter like Julfikar Mahmud Mintu even did not get a team last season," told former national captain Jewel Rana.

Mintu played in the senior division after being ignored by the

professional league clubs and the footballers are afraid that a gentlemen's agreement will reduce their remuneration.

"I had to retire from the national team so I could play freely," said Jewel showing his frustration. "It will not encourage youngsters to play football anymore. At least I will not support someone to take it as a career in the future."

The clubs reportedly met on Saturday to agree that they will not target selected players by the others for the B. League transfer that began on May 15.

The heavyweights are to name seven players each and the other five each so that these players cannot bargain.

Amit Khan Shuvra, the recently discarded national defender said that players' remuneration will go down for the pact.

"I fear that national players won't get more than Tk four lakh and the outsiders would be offered something around Tk one lakh. This is nothing. A player earned more money by playing outside Dhaka last year as there was no

league in the capital," said Shuvra.

"We did not receive 30 percent of our fee last year and my club's condition is worse this year," informed the Brothers Union centre-back.

This year, Muktijoddha are uncertain whether they would go for a big-budget team or not. It means bad news for us," he added.

Alfaz Ahmed also said with most players not getting the promised amount in the inaugural B. League, the financial constraints of the footballers will remain.

"We want some financial security from the federation. If there is really any agreement, we will suffer," the ex-national skipper said.

The footballers will appeal to the newly elected BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who is now abroad, to solve this crisis once he returns.

The players in the national camp had boycotted training on Sunday but returned to practice after the BFF high-ups assured them to take steps to stop any negative and damaging move by the clubs.



Former national captain Jewel Rana speaks to footballers about the Dhaka clubs' 'gentlemen's agreement' yesterday at the Dhaka University ground.

PHOTO STAR

Row over Shah Rukh

PTI, Mumbai



A day after Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan was barred entry to his team's dressing room, the Indian Premier League (IPL) authorities yesterday issued fresh guidelines which has cleared the deck for the presence of a franchise owner in the team dug-out for the Twenty20 matches.

IPL chairman and commissioner Lalit Modi announced that the organisers would issue an all-area accreditation badge to one member of each of the eight team franchisees, following the ejection of Shah Rukh from the dug-out by the Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) officials of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

While defending the decision of the ACSU officials to ask the film star to vacate the dug-out during the IPL tie against Chennai Super Kings at the Eden Gardens on

Sunday, Modi said suitable measures would be taken to avoid a repeat of this incident.

"There have been reports in the media about denial of a team owner access to the dug-out and dressing room. The IPL is conducted as per the rules and regulations of the ICC whose ACSU officials were just doing the job entrusted," Modi said.

"They go strictly by the colour code. A red badge issued by the ACSU, on approval of the team manager, will help the person holding it access to all areas," he said.

"This is what we intend to do by giving each of the team owners one such badge each. They do have the right to sit with the players in the dug-outs and dressing rooms," Modi told a media conference here.

A separate report from Rajkot adds, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) yesterday said it has no problem with Shah Rukh sitting with his Knight Riders players in the dug-out during the IPL matches but advised the star to follow the ICC guidelines.

Talking to mediapersons here, BCCI secretary Niranjan Shah said, "Any one can enter players' dressing room before clearing the necessary procedure and Shah Rukh Khan is not exempted." He should take permission from IPL's anti-corruption officer before entering into the dressing room," Shah said.

Shah however denied reports that some foreign players have not been given their wages.

Another report from New Delhi adds, the ICC on Monday appeared surprised at film star Shah Rukh's statement that its anti-corruption unit had asked him not to be with the team on the playing field, saying that the IPL tournament was being played under BCCI's rules and regulations.

The ICC said the IPL was a domestic tournament and the game's governing body did not have any role in formulating the rules.

"The reported incident has nothing to do with the ICC as IPL is a domestic tournament which is being held under the Rules and

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Mumbai ride on Bravo

CRICINFO, undated



Mumbai Indians' last meeting with the Deccan Chargers ended in a fourth straight defeat but the return game on Sunday provided plenty of cheer, producing their sixth successive win, the best run in the Indian Premier League so far.

Dwayne Bravo signed off from the IPL with a fine all-round effort in the away match at the at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium at Uppal in Hyderabad, giving Mumbai a great chance of making the semifinals.

Mumbai relied on a combined performance rather than individual brilliance: Sanath Jayasuriya's early blast set the tone before a counterattacking 54-run stand between Bravo and Abhishek Nayar boosted the total.

Deccan didn't have much of a chance at 20 for 3 and even Venugopal Rao's valiant 57 couldn't make much of a difference With



DWAYNE BRAVO ... m-o-m

Jayasuriya thundered a 15-ball 36, including laying into his fellow countryman Nuwan Zoysa for 19 off his first over, but Shahid Afridi, full of energy and verve, gave them a chance.

He's had a relatively quiet tournament so far but was full of energy here: snapping up Sachin Tendulkar and Dominic Thorne and clinging on to a sensational catch, to dismiss Robin Uthappa, inches within the boundary line. But, with Mumbai wobbling at 96 for 4, the Deccan bowlers couldn't put the foot down on the pedal.

Lot of the credit must go to Nayar and Bravo, who showed the value of good footwork: Nayar regularly sashayed down the track to loft the spinners through the on side while Bravo simply shuffled across smartly before lifting the ball with quicksilver wrists. They finally broke the shackles against Afridi -- whose first three overs cost just nine -- spanking him for 14 in the 16th over, surging the run-rate to eight an over. Nayar took on Zoysa soon after and Mumbai were on their way to a competitive score.

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Usha-MSC show off today

SPORTS REPORTER

Leaders Usha Krira Chakra will be put the test by an young and energetic Mohammedan Sporting Club when the two sides meet in today's Green Delta Premier Hockey League match.

The crucial eighth and penultimate round clash will kick off at 4pm at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium.

Usha, also the joint-defending champions, are leading the table with 21 points with after straight wins while Mohammedan are four points below.

Mohammedan suffered a blow in the title race when they drew with Sonali Bank but the black and whites, still unbeaten, were unfortunate to share points with Abahani in the previous round even after comfortably leading 3-1 at one stage.

Meanwhile, Sadharan Bima and Bangladesh Sporting Club (BSC) shared points after a 2-2 draw in yesterday's 'bottom of the table clash'.

Bangladesh Sporting led the first half 1-0 through a goal by Jamal on the half hour but Raju and Prashanta fired home penalty corners to put Bima ahead by 43 minutes.

In a highly competitive game between the minnows, Bangladesh Sporting restored parity four minutes later through Sohan's field goal.

Both teams have two points after the end of the seventh round.

Zia third in Mayors Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi Grandmaster Ziaur Rahman clinched third place in the Mayors Cup 1st International Chess tournament which finished in Mumbai, India yesterday.

Zia bagged highest nine points and tied for the title with five other players but his 70 points in the tiebreaking saw him finish behind champion GM Michel Krasenkow (72 points) of Poland and runner-up local GM Koneru Hampy (70.5).

Zia, who began on eight points, defeated India's Ram S Krishnan in the 11th and final round while Krasenkow lost to his opponent.

GM Abdullah Al Rakib, who beat India IM Ponnuswamy Konguvel, finished seventh with 8.5 points while GM Reefat Bin Sattar was 28th with 7.5 points after losing to local guy Somak Palit.

A total of 288 players including 13 GMs and 23 IMs from eight countries took part in the 11-round Swiss league competition.

Warne could return!

CRICINFO, undated

Shane Warne has not ruled out a dramatic return to international cricket for the next Ashes series if Australia's problems with trying to fill his spin position continue.

Warne retired from international cricket following the final Test against England in Sydney last January, and earlier this year ended his first-class career by withdrawing from his Hampshire deal.

However, he has been one of the outstanding performers in the Indian Premier League with the Rajasthan Royals, who currently top the league table, taking 14 wickets at 18.78. At the same time Australia are struggling to find a consistent, frontline Test spinner, although Stuart MacGill's recovery from wrist surgery has been a promising sign.

It was thought that MacGill would slot straight back into the team last season, but after two poor Tests against Sri Lanka when he was afflicted by injuries he opted for an operation which kept him out for the majority of 2007-08. Brad Hogg was given a run, without ever really impressing, and has now also quit international cricket, while the domestic cupboard isn't overflowing with spin talent.

MacGill has been recalled for the current tour of West Indies while Beau Casson, the New South Wales left-arm wrist spinner, has been handed his first senior call-up. But Warne said if Ricky Ponting became desperate ahead of next year's Ashes in England, he would seriously considering coming out of retirement.

"If Australia really needed me and there was no one else around, and Ricky thought I could do the job, you would weigh up the options," Warne told the Herald Sun. "If Stuey MacGill fell over and broke his leg, and there were no other spinners around, and Ricky came out and said, 'Mate, can you

SEE PAGE 18 COL 8

Oram ensures draw

AFP, London

Jacob Oram's 101 secured a draw for New Zealand on the fifth and final day of the first Test against England at Lord's on Monday.

Oram's fifth Test hundred, and first against England, was the centrepiece of New Zealand's second innings 269 for six - 227 ahead.

When Oram came to the crease, after wicketkeeper and leading batsman Brendon McCullum had retired hurt on 11, New Zealand were only 78 runs ahead at 120 for four.

But by the time he was out, New Zealand had made the game ahead of the start of the second Test of this three-match series at Old Trafford on Friday.

Oram, 55, not out at tea, sped through the 90s with three boundaries after England had taken the new ball with the tall left-hander on 89.

He cut the first delivery with the new ball, from Ryan Sidebottom for four to go to 93, drove the left-arm quick down the ground to reach 97 and reached his hundred with a forcing shot through the offside against the same bowler.

But one ball after completing a 120-ball hundred with two sixes and 15 fours that got him onto the Lord's honours board, he was bowled having dominated a stand of 132 with Daniel Flynn in which the Test debutant made just 22.

There was still time for McCullum, who made a run-a-ball 97 in the first innings, to resume before he was caught behind for 24.

Flynn finished on 29 not out with New Zealand captain, man-of-the-match for his first innings five for 69, unbeaten on nought.

New Zealand resumed after lunch on 113 for three, just 71 runs ahead.

And 16 balls later that became 115 for four when Jamie How, trying to turn fast bowler Stuart Broad legside, was well caught for 68 by Alastair Cook at third slip.

Opener How, celebrating his 27th birthday on Monday, batted for over three hours facing 131 balls with nine fours for his second Test fifty.

McCullum then had to retire hurt after a short ball from Broad hit his unprotected left forearm.

Fortunately for New Zealand an X-ray subsequently revealed McCullum had not suffered a break.

Oram then pulled left-arm spinner Monty Panesar for the first six of the match before a square-cut boundary off fast bowler James Anderson saw the tall him to a 67-ball fifty.

New Zealand started on Monday on 40 without loss, a deficit of two, with How unbeaten on 26 and Aaron Redmond, who'd avoided a pair on his Test debut, 14 not out.

But only seven runs had been

added when Redmond, pushing forward with an angled bat, edged Anderson straight to Andrew Strauss at first slip.

And they were only 10 in front when, 17 balls later, James Marshall was lbw for nought to an inswinging delivery from Sidebottom, who'd taken four for 77 in New Zealand's first innings 277.

How, on 46, drove loosely at the last delivery of Broad's first over on Monday only for Strauss to drop the head-high slip chance as the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



New Zealand all-rounder Jacob Oram places a cover drive during his century on the final day of the first Test against England at Lord's in London yesterday.

PHOTO INTERNET

Delhi dump Bangalore

CRICINFO, undated



Bangalore Royals are out of contention for a spot in the semifinals of the Indian Premier League following a five-wicket defeat at the hands of the Delhi Daredevils at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore on Monday.

Gautam Gambhir and Virender Sehwag's 90-run opening stand took the game away from Bangalore. Their pace was furious and their shots full-blooded as they careened towards the target.

Though Delhi suffered a few scares after the openers fell, as Bangalore bowled intelligently and fielded accurately, they recovered in time to boost their semifinal hopes.

A classy bowling effort from Delhi prevented the Bangalore from setting a more competitive total than 154. Shreevats Goswami played an entertaining debut innings and was chiefly responsible for Bangalore's defeat that was boosted by Misbahul Hag taking 24 runs in final over.

Among the first four batsmen to

be dismissed, only Goswami fell while going for the runs. The rest were wickets set up by the bowlers.

Glenn McGrath, who conceded only nine runs in his first spell, was visibly irritated after opener Bharat Chipli was not given out to an apparent edge when he was on two.

In his next over, McGrath first had him play and miss outside off, then bowled a short one that Chipli half-wanted to hook, followed it with a back-of-length delivery that he cut to point and finally served up another short one that Chipli pulled and edged to Rajat Bhatia, who ran backwards and caught the ball after falling and nearly going head over heels.

Jacques Kallis, the eighth opener Bangalore have tried so far, was caught behind off Farveez Maharoof's first ball - full and wide. Rahul Dravid soon followed, bowled off a quicker delivery by off-spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan.

Goswami, like the right-handed Rajasthan opener Swapnil Asnodkar, packs in quite a lot of fireworks in his small frame. He was cramped for room by Maharoof when he got to the crease, but broke loose in the next over by Pradeep Sangwan - pulling him for a six and a four to midwicket and

then flicking another four to fine leg. But it was his late cut - which he played against Sangwan and Yo Mahesh - that oozed confidence and aggression. He waited till the last second to cut to third man and Sangwan's figures after two overs read 2-0-37-0. Goswami also tried to disconcert the bowler by either stepping out of the crease or sliding gracefully outside off stump and reached his fifty off 39 balls.

But his wicket, caught trying to pull Maharoof over midwicket, when Bangalore were at 102 in 15.1 overs caused a loss in momentum. They lost Cameron White and B Akhil to run-outs and had added only 28 runs in 23 balls before Misbah's last-over mauling.

Though this is not a must-win game for Delhi to qualify for the semifinals, they will hope to beat the weakest side of the tournament rather than be compelled to win their final two matches against tougher opposition - Kolkata Knight Riders and Mumbai Indians.

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGALORE ROYALS CHALLENGERS: 154 for 7 in 20 overs (Kallis 25, Chipli 2, Goswami 52, SEE PAGE 18 COL 4)



Bangladesh Sporting Club captain Khaja Tayab Reza (L) tries to get beyond a Sadharan Bima defender during their Green Delta Premier Hockey League match at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO STAR