



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) enjoys a few pointers on pulling off a trademark celebration from sprinting king Usain Bolt at the club's Carrington training ground in Manchester yesterday.

ASIA CUP HOCKEY South Korea lift title

AFP, Kuantan

South Korea won their third Asia Cup hockey title after beating three-time champions Pakistan 1-0 in a hard-fought final in Malaysia on Saturday.

The winning goal was scored by drag flick specialist Kim Byung-hoon in the 65th minute. Kim also finished as the tournament's top scorer with six goals.

It was a winning debut for Korea's coach Cho Myung-ju, and the side now holds both the Asian Games and the Asia Cup titles while also having secured its place at the 2010 World Cup in India.

Pakistan will join China, Malaysia and Japan in the qualifiers in November.

Korea won their previous two titles in 1994 and 1999 and the team's win here saw them equal the three won by Pakistan.

Korea also won three of the individual awards after the final. Player of the tournament went to You Hyosik while Hon Eun-seong was awarded man-of-the-match for his performance in the final.

Malaysia's S Kumar was named the tournament's best goalkeeper.

Earlier China claimed third place after a 7-6 penalty shoot-out with Malaysia in the bronze medal play-off.

Hayden

FROM PAGE 17

made 62, his fifth half-century of the tournament, off 54 balls.

It was a familiar tale for Mumbai, with Duminy holding the innings together after the team's stars, Sanath Jayasuriya and Sachin Tendulkar, were dismissed.

Jayasuriya threatened to play a major innings, hitting 30 off 17 balls, before top-edging a catch to point. Tendulkar made 11 before he was caught at deep mid-wicket.

Duminy and Abhishek Nayar (33 not out) put on 65 for the fourth wicket before Duminy was run out, backing up to far, in the final over.

SCORES IN BRIEF
MUMBAI INDIANS: 147-5 in 20 overs (Duminy 62, Nayar 33 not out, Jayasuriya 30, Tendulkar 11).

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 151-3 in 19.1 overs (Hayden 60 not out, Dhoni 23 not out, Badrinath 22, Raina 20).

Result: Chennai Super Kings won by seven wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Matthew Hayden.

Nadal on a roll

Tennis

AFP, Madrid

Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic will meet for the third time in as many Masters events on Saturday after the duo swept to straight-set quarterfinal wins in Madrid on Friday.

World number one Nadal surprisingly trailed 149-44 match record on clay, a run which includes four successive French Open titles.

After surrendering his 4-0 second set lead, Verdasco then saved two match points in the 10th game before Nadal eventually claimed victory by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma.

Third seed Djokovic, fighting to claw back his number three ranking from Scot Andy Murray, will again face Nadal on clay after losing to the Spaniard in the finals at Monte Carlo and Rome over the past month.

The Serbian reached his fourth consecutive Masters semifinal with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Croatian wild card Ivan Ljubicic.

Nadal said he was happy to have avoided a third set.

"I should have won in straight sets, but that's what happens sometimes when you play Andy. I bounced back in the third and played well," said Federer, still in search of his first trophy of 2009.

"I came up with some nice points. Those make me happy. I'm pleased with how I played."

Roddick was not unhappy with his first few days on clay after missing six weeks of the season to get married to US swimsuit model Brooklyn Decker.

"I got into two pretty tough matches here," said the former world number one, who has always had troubles on clay.

"Coming back after six weeks off on probably my least favourite surface could be worse."

"All in all, it was pretty good preparation and hopefully it can get better too. I have definitely felt worse going into the French Open before."

Perez to bring in Kaka?

Football

INTERNET, undated

Florentino Perez, who will probably return as president of Real Madrid in June, has already sealed the signing of Kaka from AC Milan, according to sports dailies AS and Marca on Saturday.

AS claims that Perez has already reached agreement with the Brazilian playmaker on a five-year contract, which will earn him around 12 million euros (16.29 million dollars) per season, making him the highest paid player in the world.

"Florentino Has Closed An Agreement With Kaka" is the headline in AS on Saturday, whilst Marca goes with a simpler "Kaka Signed."

Marca suggests that Perez will pay Milan around 63 million euros for the Brazilian star.

Spain's highest-selling paper also claims that Perez' next target will be Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery, whilst AS suggests that he is also interested in Xabi Alonso (Liverpool), Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United) and Valencia pair David Villa and David Silva.

Ramon Calderon - who took over the Real presidency from Perez in 2006 and who resigned in disgrace five months ago - tried to lure Cristiano Ronaldo away for Old Trafford for three

years, but to no avail.

Perez officially announced that he would be a candidate in the Real elections, which are scheduled for June 14, on Thursday. He is the overwhelming favourite, according to all the opinion polls.

Champions-elect Barcelona are worried about Perez "stealing" one of their stars, as Perez controversially did in 2000 with Luis Figo. It is rumoured that Perez might try to snatch either Andres Iniesta or Lionel Messi away from the Camp Nou.

On Friday Barca president Joan Laporta said that "Hope that he (Perez) does not try, because the players of Barcelona are committed to the club and therefore it would be a vain attempt."

Laporta added that he would interpret any agreement by Perez to sign a Barca player as "an act of sporting aggression."

"We respect Real Madrid," he said, "and we hope that good relations would be maintained if Florentino returns as president."

Whilst president from 2000 to 2006, Perez became famous - and also feared - for signing "Galactico" stars such as Figo, Zinedine Zidane (now tipped to be Perez' technical secretary), Ronaldo and David Beckham.

Perez led Real to two Spanish league titles and one Champions Cup, but won nothing in his last three years and hastily resigned in February 2006.

Vinnie Jones not guilty

Football

AFP, Sioux Falls

British football star and Hollywood tough guy Vinnie Jones smiled and mouthed "thankyou" to a jury that found him not guilty Friday of assault charges.

Jones was arrested for punching Juan Trevino-Barrera shortly after the man's friend smashed Jones over the head with a beer mug during a brawl over a game of pool in the small city of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

He told the jury that he was "driven by fear" and acting in self-defence when he saw Barrera approach him as he made his way to the bathroom to wash the blood off his face.

"My nose was hanging off. You could have put a quarter in it," he testified.

Security video shows Jones punched Barrera, 24, three times before Barrera threw him to the ground.

Barrera, who also has a civil suit against Jones for damages and lost wages, acknowledged in court Thursday that he sold his story to a tabloid and stood to get more money if Jones was convicted.

He was also recently convicted on drug charges.

"We came here today and told the truth, and the people of Sioux Falls saw through that. They saw through Barrera and his antics," Jones said after the verdict was read.

"I stood up for myself that night and I stood up for myself today," Jones said.

"And justice has prevailed."

After the verdict was read, Jones met with jurors outside the courtroom, thanked them and signed autographs. At least one autograph read, "Be good, Vinnie Jones."

One juror said she felt Barrera's story changed too much between what he told police, the tabloids and the jury.

"He back-pedalled a lot, and contradicted himself a lot," Kim Westendorf told AFP.



Henri Cochet of France won most (nine) French Open men's titles (four singles, three doubles, and two mixed doubles) between 1926 and 1930.

Umpires to take Level 3 course

SPORTS REPORTER

The top fifteen umpires in the country will take part in a seven-day course at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur from today.

The curriculum is the CA-BCB Level 3 Umpiring Course, part of the two cricket board's game education programme.

Current ICC International Panel umpires Nadir Shah and Enamul Haque Moni will be accompanied by Akhtarruddin Shahin, Afzalur Rahman, Akhteruzzaman, Asadur Rahman, Gazi Sohel, Ziaul Islam Masood, Mahfuzur Rahman Litu, Mizanur Rahman Milon and Tanvir Ahmed for the course.

Recently retired players who took to umpiring - Anisur Rahman, Masudur Rahman Mukul, Morshed Ali Khan and Sharuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat -- are also taking part in the seven-day programme.

As a cricket club, Yorkshire is slow to embrace their Asian community, but they have made up for that in recent years, with the emergence of the young leg-spinner and

Tykes embrace Pakistan

CRICINFO, undated

Yorkshire's chief executive, Stewart Regan, has welcomed the prospect of Pakistan taking on Australia in England next summer, and believes that if Headingly was able to secure one of the two Tests that have been proposed in the PCB's draft itinerary, the match would attract far more interest than the England Test against Bangladesh that is currently on Yorkshire's agenda for 2010.

The Bangladesh tour, which has yet to be confirmed by the England and Wales Cricket Board, is scheduled to take place in May and June next summer. But having witnessed the difficulty that Durham has faced this week in attracting a crowd to the ongoing Test between England and West Indies, Regan is not optimistic about the level of interest for such a low-key series.

"As with football and rugby, it all depends on the quality of the opposition," Regan told Cricinfo. "If you are hosting the Ashes, as we are fortunate enough to be doing this summer, then you'll never have any problems filling games, but if it's a lesser opponent -- and I mean no disrespect to Bangladesh -- then you are going to have difficulty in selling out."

"But Pakistan against Australia would be very special," he added. "They are two of the leading cricket nations around the world, and we believe that if all of the venues in England, we could probably sell that match out or come very close to it, because of the huge level of interest in Yorkshire."

As a cricket club, Yorkshire is slow to embrace their Asian community, but they have made up for that in recent years, with the emergence of the young leg-spinner and

England prospect, Adil Rashid, a testament to their new-found attitude.

"In the last two seasons we've strengthened our relations with the Pakistani community enormously," said Regan. "We had Inzamam-ul-Haq and Younis Khan here as overseas players in 2007, while Bradford -- and West Yorkshire generally -- has the second largest Pakistani population outside of London. It would be a great honour to stage a Pakistan Test in the north of England. Of all the places to stage such a series, Yorkshire would be top of the list."

The Pakistan team has been in exile ever since the terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team bus during the Lahore Test in March, which claimed the lives of eight security personnel. The team recently concluded an ODI series against Australia in Dubai, but the prospect of playing in a traditional cricket-loving nation such as England is of great interest to the PCB. "I think England is an almost perfect option," Ehsan Mani, the former ICC president and PCB advisor, told Cricinfo.

Regan agrees. "We put our hat in the ring about six months ago, given the troubles in Mumbai and Lahore," he said. "If there's the opportunity to stage a neutral Test, then Headingly we feel would be a great venue because of the huge Asian demographic and the passionate cricket following in Yorkshire. We are the biggest county in the country, and we feel we could put on a great event, and make the Pakistani players feel that this is their second home."

"When we've hosted Pakistan matches in the past, we've seen a huge level of support for the team, with Pakistan flags all over the county," he added. "Many second and even third-generation Pakistanis support the team even though they live in England. This prospect is unique and very exciting."

Abahani stay

FROM PAGE 17

and Hodge was dismissed three overs later after contributing 48 from 41 deliveries.

Following their departures, David Hussey smashed 43 runs off only 17 balls with two fours and four sixes.

Ryan Harris led the Deccan attack, bagging the scalps of McCullum and Hodge for a 20 return.

SCORES IN BRIEF

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: 160-5 in 20 overs (Hodge 48, Hussey 43, Ganguly 33, McCullum 20; Harris 2-20).

DECCAN CHARGERS: 166-4 in 20 overs (Gilchrist 43, Sharma 32 not out, Suman 31, Gibbs 28, Symonds 18).

Result: Deccan Chargers won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Rohit Sharma.

Biman fly

FROM PAGE 17

Sunny's wicket, finished with three for 33.

Sunny also starred with the ball, picking up three wickets as BUET struggled against their more illustrious opponents.

Sanwar Hossain, the former

man of the match, took four for 37 from his six overs.

In BKPS, Jahangirnagar University were placed comfortably after reducing Dhaka University to nine for 2 from three overs. Asadul Habib and Tasamul Haq will continue to bat today against a rampant Jahangirnagar side, who reached 232-8 from 50 overs.

Shafiq Azam was the top scorer, hitting 80 off 120 balls. He found good support from Khaled Mosharraf, who made 63. For Dhaka University, Abul Bashar picked up four wickets.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Biplob, Nazrul,

SLC goes easy on ICL rebels

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has decided to give a three-month cooling period to its ICL contracted players before they can be accepted into the system, provided they cut off all ties with the unofficial Twenty20 league. The players include Marvan Atapattu, Upul Chandana, Avishka Gunawardene, Russell Arnold and Saman Jayanthan.

This decision was taken by the SLC's interim committee on Thursday. Secretary Nishantha Ranatunga said the verdict to allow the ICL contracted players to get back was taken with the intention of making full use of their experience in different capacities.

"Everyone speaks about development of football in the grassroots but nobody ever comes forward to support. Whatever we do, we do it on our own. Some how we have collected the fund to send our boys abroad. We have got just 5,000 dollars when we need 30,000 dollars," Salahuddin said.

"However, our aim is to take our grassroots football team at the top of South Asia," he said.

England on run-spree