



Olympic superstar Michael Phelps of the USA swims on way to winning the 200m butterfly during the XLII Santa Clara International Invitational meet in California on Friday.

Musical boost for India

PTI, Noida

With defending champions India fighting it out in the ICC World Twenty20 in England, Music company Saregama has launched an album, "India Hai Meri Jaan", to impart new life to the Indian team's youngsters.

The album, released by World Cup Winning captain, Kapil Dev here on Thursday, has songs written, sung and composed by Padamjeet Sehrawat, a former national level player and ESPN commentator.

Virender Sehwag, who is nursing a shoulder injury in England, tele-launched the album with a message for his fans on the occasion.

Rajib stays

FROM PAGE 17

Abdullah Al Safi secured six points while GM Niaz Murshed, who lost to Shreyansh Dakia of India, FM Khondokar Aminul Islam, FM Mehdi Hasan Parag, Debaraj Chatterjee and Mahtabuddin Ahmed bagged 5.5 points each after the ninth round games.

Ashrafal

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"Under my captaincy the team reached the second round in South Africa in the first Twenty20 World Cup and the praises had showered on me for my 27-ball 61 and now people are criticizing and there was a reason for that," Ashrafal recalled adding that he also contributed with the bat during his captaincy.

Captain Siddons came hard on his charges after the defeat against Ireland and raised question about fitness, discipline and said that 'the players don't listen to him'.

Ashrafal however said that his coach had spoken out of frustration. "This kind of questions didn't rise when we played good cricket in the practice matches and even against India in the first Group match. I think he told this out of frustration because it was really painful to accept the fact that we didn't qualify for the second round," explained Ashrafal.

Dhoni bucks

FROM PAGE 17

sides losing so we're not worried too much about it.

"Even though we didn't bat well, we still had the firepower to make a game out of it and it ran until the second last over."

Dhoni, who admitted Bravo had "taken the game away from us", said India's batsmen had let the side down.

"On these sort of tracks it (your score) should be at least 160 because the wickets are nice."

"We still really fancied our chances with 153 on the board if we could contain them in the first six overs when Chris Gayle was batting because he can really take the game away from you."

"I think the bowlers did well to contain him but in the middle overs they batted really well and scored runs off the spinners."



Did U Know?

Non-flying Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp's fear of flying caused him to miss many international and European games for Arsenal.

Sharapova sent packing

AFP, Birmingham

Maria Sharapova's Wimbledon build-up suffered a setback on Saturday when she was knocked out of the Birmingham grasscourt event 6-4, 6-4 by China's Li Na.

Sharapova, the champion here in 2004 and 2005, is still feeling her way back on tour after over 10 months out with a shoulder injury and she showed signs of a quick revival by reaching the French Open quarterfinals.

But the unseeded Russian was plagued by errors on Saturday, suffering six breaks of serve in her 90-minute defeat.

Li, the fourth seed, will face either Slovakian 13th seed Magdalena Rybarikova or India's Sania Mirza in Sunday's final.

Proteas keep

FROM PAGE 17

Graeme Smith and fellow opener Kallis prospered early on against the West Indies quids.

But spin, as it has so often done at this tournament, yielded a wicket.

Left-armers Suleiman Benn troubled Smith before the left-hander steered him straight to Andre Fletcher at point, having made 31 off 18 balls with six fours.

Another fifty stand, between Kallis and Gibbs kept the runs coming briskly before Kallis holed out off medium-pacer Simmons to Kieron Pollard for a 31-ball 45.

Gibbs pressed on, hoisting Simmons for a huge six over wide long-on. But soon after completing a 33-ball fifty, featuring that six and seven fours, Gibbs exited when he chipped Pollard to Taylor at mid-on.

That left South Africa 136 for three in the 15th over but the West Indies' revival saw them fall short of 200.

West Indies complete their Super Eight programme against hosts England at the Oval on Monday with South Africa facing India at Trent Bridge on Tuesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 183 for 7 in 20 overs (Smith 31, Kallis 45, Gibbs 55, De Villiers 17, Morkel 10, Boucher 17 not out, Taylor 3-30)

WEST INDIES: 163 for 9 in 20 overs (Simmons 77, Bravo 19, Chandepaul 8, Sarwan 8, Ramdin 8, Sley 2-30, Parnell 4-13, Van der Merwe 2-30)

Result: South Africa won by 20 runs. **Man-of-the-match:** Wayne Parnell.

Gul blows

FROM PAGE 17

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori made his first appearance in the tournament following a shoulder injury.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 99 all out in 18.3 overs (B. McCullum 12, Redmond 15, Styris 22, extras 6; Aamer 1-23, Razaq 2-17, Afridi 1-17, Gul 5-6)

PAKISTAN: 100 for 4 in 13.1 overs (Akmal 19, Shahzaib 35, Afridi 29 not out, Younus 6 not out, extras 2; Mills 1-28, Vettori 2-20)

Result: Pakistan won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Umar Gul (Pakistan).

Okada vows

FROM PAGE 20

"We want to give all we have against Australia," said Okada, who is serving his second stint as national coach since taking over from ailing Bosnian tactician Ivica Osim in late 2007.

Younus blames start

AFP, London



Pakistan captain Younus Khan bemoaned yet another poor start at the World Twenty20 after his side lost their opening Super Eight match against Sri Lanka by 19 runs at Lord's on Friday.

Pace bowler Sohail Tanvir conceded 29 runs in his first two overs, including several no-balls and wides while Pakistan were equally slack when they batted, collapsing to 35 for three.

Younus tried to repair the damage with a well-made score of 50 before another flurry of wickets put the game beyond his side's reach.

What made this defeat worse for Pakistan was that their spinners had got them back into the game by helping restrict Sri Lanka, who had been 81 without loss, to 150 for seven.

"In every single game we've had trouble with our start," Younus told reporters. "Today was a crucial game and we had back-to-back no-balls in the first over, but Tanvir is struggling."

"We also struggled with our batting and we only had one good partnership but in a match like this you have to go all the way and not just score 20s and things like that."

Pakistan conceded 20 extras and Younus added: "We had 20 extras and we lost by 19 runs so that is crucial in this form of cricket."

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But a coy Younus added: "He is here and training at the moment, but we'll decide tomorrow if he is playing or not."

Sri Lanka were given an excellent platform thanks to a typically brisk 46 from Tillekaratne Dilshan which featured the opener's now trademark scoop shot over his head for four.

"The first time I played it was two months ago in the IPL in South Africa. I have confidence now and I trust myself that I can play that shot," Dilshan said.

"I could play a paddle shot against a yorker and then if the ball is a good length, the ball can go behind the wicketkeeper."

Sri Lanka spinners Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis put the brakes on the Pakistan innings and Dilshan said that, with those two bowlers in the side, his team were confident of defending seemingly low totals.

"We are playing very good cricket, we know with Mendis and Murali we can defend 160 against any team."

This was the first match between the Asian nations since Sri Lanka's team bus was attacked by armed militants in Lahore in March, an incident that led to the suspension of all international cricket in Pakistan.

Before Friday's match players from both sides lined up alongside one another for the respective national anthems and Younus said: "It was a good gesture actually especially after what happened in Lahore."

"Pakistan and Sri Lanka have always had a good relationship. When I was batting against Murali we were chatting with each other."

Murray storms into final

Tennis

AFP, London

Top seed Andy Murray swept into his first Queen's final with a ruthless 6-2, 6-4 win over Juan Carlos Ferrero on Saturday.

Murray is bidding to become the first Briton to win the pre-Wimbledon warm-up event since Bunny Austin in 1938.

Queen's was the venue for Murray's first Tour victory in a singles match four years ago and the 22-year-old has once again been right at home on the grass courts of west London.

The world number three, who plays James Blake in Sunday's final, hasn't dropped a set in four matches and, in reaching his fifth ATP Tour final this year, he also became the first British finalist here since Tim Henman in 2002.

"I felt it was a good match. I started well but the second set was very close," Murray said. "I'm obviously happy to win in two sets. I was very happy with the way I played all round."

"I didn't have the easiest draw so it's been a good week all around and hopefully I can finish it off on Sunday."

Murray will be up against an opponent with previous experience of a Queen's final after Blake went through to his second showpiece here thanks to Andy Roddick's retirement with the score at 4-4 in the first set of their semifinal.

Roddick, who was bidding for a record fifth title here, injured his right ankle as he slipped at the back of the court in the fourth game of the first set.

He eventually called for treatment three games later and resumed only after having his ankle and foot heavily bandaged.

Roddick, the American second seed, was clearly still in some discomfort as he served in the next game.

He managed to hold serve but the pain was too much and, with Wimbledon looming in 10 days time, Roddick took the

safety-first option and walked to the net to admit defeat.

Blake, beaten in the 2006 Queen's final by Lleyton Hewitt, admitted he didn't take much pleasure from this victory.

"He pulled up a little early on when he went over. It was unfortunate but he's such a great player and he doesn't want to endanger it anymore," Blake said.

"He normally moves so well and you could tell this wasn't the same Andy Roddick."

Ferrero, a former world number one and French Open champion, has enjoyed something of a resurgence this season, with his first Tour win in six years coming in Casablanca in April, but he was no match for Murray.

The top seed set the tone right from the first point when he guided a sublime passing shot down the line.

Then some typically obdurate defence from Murray frustrated Ferrero on break point and he tamely netted a forehand to give the Scot a break in the opening game.

Both players unleashed some mighty blows in the early stages as they tried to bludgeon their way to supremacy, but it was Murray who hit harder and more accurately.

When Ferrero's forehand clipped the net and looped beyond the baseline to hand Murray another break in the fifth game, the first set was all but over.

With the first set wrapped up in less than 30 minutes, Murray seemed to lose his concentration and squandered three break points at the start of the second.

More break points came and went in Ferrero's next service game as the Spaniard began to find his range, but Murray is the kind of relentless scurrier who can drive an opponent to distraction.

So it proved in the seventh game of the set as Murray broke again to move ahead 4-3 when Ferrero, playing in the first grass-court semi-final of his career, dragged a forehand wide going for a big winner.

Ferrero held to make

Murray serve out the match and he did just that to complete another imperious performance.

Dinajpur

FROM PAGE 17

Nantu and Shamim scored for Abahani in the first half while Riyad and Sagar struck for Brothers.

India now

FROM PAGE 17

absolutely fearless but also sensible at the same time," Tendulkar told BBC Sport.

"We have a fantastic team combination and that is why there have been fantastic results," he added.

Tendulkar also feels that India have the balance in batting and bowling to win the Twenty20 World Cup in England.

"I am hoping that India win the World Cup because we have all the required armaments," he said.

Team for prep

FROM PAGE 17

Mirpur and Bangladesh A team coach and former national skipper Khaled Mahmud will oversee the training programme in the absence of head coach Jamie Siddons who is now in Australia on leave and join the team in Caribbean.

The Tigers will leave for West Indies on June 29 to play one Twenty20, three one-day internationals and two Tests.

PROVISIONAL SQUAD

Mohammad Ashrafal, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Rokibul Hassan, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nayeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Shahadat Hossain, Syed Rasel, Mahmudullah Riyad, Rubel Hossain, Shamsur Rahman, Mehrab Hossain, Imrul Kayes, Nazmul Hossain, Mahbubul Alam, Enamul Haque and Sahagir Hossain.

Phelps flies to victory



Swimming

AFP, Santa Clara

Olympic superstar Michael Phelps had a lot more trouble with the cold weather than with his competitors Friday at the Santa Clara Invitational swim meet.

Phelps won the 200-meter butterfly by more than 5 1/2 seconds, racing away from the rest of the field to set a meet record of 1 minute, 54.31 seconds - fourth fastest in the world this year.

But then came the toughest part of his evening. Meet officials could not find his clothes, and the swimmer who captured eight gold medals at the Beijing Games last August stood shivering in the chilly air for several minutes with only a large white towel to protect him from the elements.

"It's cold out here, I'm freezing," Phelps said. "It's windy and chilly."

While the water is kept at a comfortable competition temperature, Phelps said he could feel the wind in his face during the last half of the race.

"I felt the wind the third 50 (meters)," he said. "Coming off the 100 wall I was feeling, 'Ooh, this is not good.'"

While Phelps had the most dominant victory Friday night, he was not the biggest winner.

That honor went to American Dana Vollmer, who won the women's 100m freestyle and the

100m butterfly, and then added her third gold medal of the evening by swimming the anchor leg on the winning 4x100m freestyle relay.

Australia's Meagen Nay won the 400m freestyle, took the bronze medal in the 100m freestyle and added a relay silver medal.

She has had a strong showing on the Australian team's US tour, with seven gold medals at a meeting in Arizona last weekend.

Her teammate Leisel Jones broke her own 2-year-old meet record with a winning performance of 2:23.92 in the 200m breaststroke.

Jones, a six-time Olympic medalist, is skipping the world championships this summer to focus on beauty school. She hopes to open her own salon later this year back home in Australia.

"Waxing, nails, massage, hair - it's a nice way to break up swimming. They're totally different people from athletes," she said of beauty school. "Australians love their day spas."

Katie Hoff, who won three medals for the US at the Beijing Games, pulled out of the 400m freestyle final with a bad cough and her coach, Bob Bowman, said she would skip the final two days of the meet.

Other swimmers might be coughing soon, too, after an unseasonably cold, windy evening.

"It was tough, especially with the wind," said Australia's Brenton Rickard, who won the men's 100m breaststroke. "It kind of slaps you in the face with every breath you take."

The meeting continues on Saturday.

Bravo IPL

FROM PAGE 17

Friday's late game at Lord's they will find themselves in action again in the earlier of two fixtures across London at the Oval on Saturday.

By contrast, tournament favourites South Africa had a day off Friday.

"I would be nice if we could have another evening game," said Gayle.

"We'll just have to set our minds, put this behind us and focus on tomorrow. It's difficult. You might look at it and say it's a Twenty20 but this format of the game is draining mentally."

"We will just have to switch on as quickly as possible."

Medium-pacer Bravo took four for 38 after fast bowler Fidel Edwards had put India on the backfoot with early wickets on his way to fine figures of three for 24.

Hearteningly for the West Indies, this match also showed they could win matches in this format without a major contribution from opening batsman Gayle, dismissed for 22 against India.

Bravo added: "It's nice to see someone actually put up their hand, take the game into their own hands."

"Yes we depend on Chris to get a good start but this is cricket, it doesn't happen all the time. He's in good form and we know before this tournament is over he's going to come good again."

"Our captain had the confidence to shuffle the batting order and we still got the job done. It doesn't matter what number I bat."

Gayle, who hammered 88 in the group win over Australia, said the sometimes wayward

Edwards had played a crucial role.

"We had that tremendous start from Fidel Edwards, picking up wickets at the top of the order made it difficult for them to get off to a flyer."

There was also a marked improvement in West Indies' fielding. Not only did Lendl Simmons, who later weighed in with 44, take a brilliant catch running backwards to get rid of Gautam Gambhir, but West Indies' ground fielding was impressive too.

"We have had a discussion about our fielding," Gayle revealed. "We did more catching drills during our warm-up. It's not like we are not working on our fielding, we know it's our downfall. We just have to keep working."

Glamour back at Real

FROM PAGE 20

would be another sizeable fee.

Real were also looking to raid Valencia for David Silva and Raul Albiol, with the latter appearing the more likely to move as the club from the Metastella claim Silva is non-transferable.

Especially with the poor state of the defence last season it will be interesting to see whether Perez, a second time round, will pay more attention to the backline, with a replacement for Fabio Cannavaro at centre-half a priority.

The reaction from treble winners Barcelona has been incredulity at the amount of money spent and the possibility that Perez could take his sum-

mer spending up to 300 million euros.

The big question is where is he getting the money from?

"I don't know where this amount of money which Florentino Perez plans to spend on players is coming from, he says he will recover it by selling shirts but that means he will have to sell 30 million shirts," said Barca director Xavier Salai Martin.

"We would never pay 65 million for a player you can be sure, for that amount of money you could have bought the whole of the side which won the Champions League in Rome."

"Someone is giving him the money and it would be good to

know who. How is it that a football team has all this money when you consider the current economic climate and the credit restrictions which banks have put in place."

There was considerable controversy at the start of Perez's first spell as president when he used money from the sale of the club's sports complex in the centre of Madrid, which had been given to Real by the local government, to finance the galacticos.

Now there is a suspicion that Perez, the owner of a major construction company in Spain, has now similarly found another way to bring in finance.

Asians have extra motivation

FROM PAGE 20

"We have a mission beyond football - we want to make our people, who are suffering war and conflict, happy."

"That's why physically and mentally we're prepared to help Iraq - that's our weapon and we wish god will help us achieve this task."

"Our country is changing for the better, we want to help lift our people's pain."

Akram, who has just signed a three year contract with Dutch club FC Twente, making him only the second Iraqi to play in Europe, added: "What's important is for the

Iraqi team to represent all our people and communities regardless of their affiliations. "We not only have Sunnis and Shi'ites on the team, but Christians and Kurds too."

More importantly, on the footballing plain at least, is the presence of seven of the players who helped Iraq take their continental crown.

In Milutinovic, who was appointed only in April, they have a vastly experienced coach who has taken five different teams to the World Cup finals. He paid tribute to his squad.

"It's a privilege to be the

Iraq coach.