



Did U Know?

James Burke was the only deaf heavy-weight champion in 1833 and 1839.



Pele
(Brazilian soccer legend)
"People talk about the best being Pele or Diego Maradona, but for me the best player ever was Alfredo Di Stefano."



ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 9:30pm
STAR Cricket
ICC Champions Trophy
South Africa v New Zealand
Live from 2:15pm

Windies 133 all out

AFP, Johannesburg

The West Indies were bowled out for 133 against Pakistan in their opening match of the Champions Trophy here on Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the West Indies
innings in the Champions
Trophy match against
Pakistan in Johannesburg on
Wednesday:

WEST INDIES

Richards c & b Aamer	1
Fletcher c Nazir b Navedul	7
Smith c U Akmal b Gul	18
Dowlin c K Akmal b Aamer	0
Reifer c Misbahul b Gul	7
Bernard b Aamer	6
Sammy b Ajmal	25
Walton lbw b Gul	0
Miller c Malik b Afridi	51
Best st K Akmal b Ajmal	8
Tonge not out	4
Extras: (w-5, nb-1)	6
Total: (All out in 34.3 overs) 133	
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-11, 3-14, 4-36, 5-43, 6-47, 7-47, 8-85, 9- 121.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Aamer	7	1	24	3
Navedul	7	0	26	1
Gul	8	2	28	3
Afridi	8.3	0	39	1
Ajmal	4	0	16	2

Gay, Felix shine

AFP, Kawasaki

American star sprinters Tyson Gay and Allyson Felix coasted to victory Wednesday in the men's and women's 100m races at the Kawasaki track and field meet.

Gay comfortably won in 10.13sec despite his groin injury, for which he will have a surgery after the season finishes.

Japan's Naoki Tsukahara and Masashi Eriguchi, both of whom clocked 10.31sec.

Officials recorded a tailwind of 0.5 m/s but Gay, 27, said he felt a consistent headwind against his face through the race.

Looking back over a season nearing its finish, Gay said he was pleased with his performance, having clocked in 9.69sec Sunday at the Shanghai Golden Grand Prix -- the joint second fastest time in history with Jamaican sensation Usain Bolt.

Meanwhile, Felix came from behind to win the women's 100m sprint in 11.22sec, followed by Japan's Chisato Fukushima with 11.42sec and Mayumi Watanabe with 11.64sec.

Kamal BCB's new boss

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The government on Wednesday appointed AHM Mustafa Kamal as the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) putting an end to speculations where he was a front-runner for the hot seat.

Keeping in mind the 2011 World Cup, in which Bangladesh is a co-host, the present government had been searching for a suitable candidate for the sensitive post where Kamal, popularly known as Lotu Kamal, won the two-way battle against Gazi Golam Dastagir.

The 62-year-old Awami League lawmaker from Comilla will replace Lt Gen Sina Ibn Jamali, who has been running the show since July 29, 2007.

Kamal will take over the presidency of most lucrative federation today. He will be the second Awami League lawmaker after Saber Hossain Chowdhury whose dynamic leadership from 1996 to 2001 saw Bangladesh win the Test status.

Although Kamal has not previously served the board in any capacity, his love for the

game and the money he spent to make domestic cricket popular made him the popular choice for the demanding job.

Kamal, who is the cricket committee chairman of popular club Abahani, a position he has successfully held since 1990, however said that he was ready to take the challenge.

"First of all I'm thankful to



AHM MUSTAFA KAMAL

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for giving me the opportunity to lead a very important sports federation, especially when we are going to host a World Cup. I am aware about the huge responsibility and I am ready to take the challenge," said an excited Kamal in his instant reaction yesterday.

Bangladesh will stage the opening ceremony of the 2011 World Cup, an event of this magnitude the country has never staged before. Besides, Bangladesh will also play host to eight matches including two quarterfinals of cricket's quadrennial showpiece event.

"I think professionalism is the most important thing to successfully run any organisation and I must ensure it at BCB during my tenure. If we can ensure professionalism in our all activities then we would be able to achieve everything," said a confident new BCB president, who is also a leading apparel businessman. He also said that it would not be a problem for him to run the show properly despite the fact that he holds some important responsibilities. Presently he is the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Finance and also the secretary, finance and planning of the Bangladesh Awami League.

"You know, a manager gets the job done. I will try my best to ensure teamwork to achieve the goal. I can ensure you that I will give my best effort to enhance the reputation of Bangladesh cricket and I am

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Sri Lanka opener Tillakaratne Dilshan slashes one through the covers as South Africa wicketkeeper Mark Boucher looks on during the inaugural match of the Champions Trophy at SuperSport Park in Centurion on Tuesday.

CT wide open: Ponting

AFP, Johannesburg



Australia captain Ricky Ponting oozed confidence Wednesday ahead of their 2009 ICC Champions Trophy debut this weekend against the West Indies.

"It is the second biggest one-day tournament and we will be doing our best to win it. We have been playing some very good one-day cricket," he told a media conference.

Ponting arrived in South Africa after leading Australia to a 6-1 series win in England and shot down suggestions that his team considered the two-week, 15-match competition as just another tournament.

"The Champions Trophy is going to be a very tight tournament because there are some very good teams taking part and Sri Lanka have already caused a surprise.

"I regard Sri Lanka as one of the top ODI teams and once they put on more than 300 runs it was always going to be hard work for South Africa," Ponting said.

He conceded there were some weary Australians after Test, ODI and Twenty 20 series in England and preparations for the West Indies clash would start Thursday.

"There are some tired bodies in our camp at the moment so we will have a rest today and

start preparing tomorrow for our first tournament match on Saturday."

Ponting has criticised the length of the ODI series in England with Australia climbing to first place on the world rankings when they won six consecutive games.

"Every other team is in South Africa playing practice matches while we are finishing off this series. We know the reasons for it, but seven games head to head is too many."

Skipper Andrew Strauss confessed there were many problems with the England ODI set-up ahead of their opening Group B match against Sri Lanka at the Wanderers on Friday.

"There have been concerns about our one-day cricket for a long time and I'm not talking years here, I'm talking decades. But we are excited about plans to move forward.

"We believe we are capable of beating any team at the Champions Trophy -- there is just an annoying lack of consistency," he said.

Strauss backed Ponting about practising in South Africa: "You would prefer to have a practice game but the schedules did not allow it. However, conditions on the Highveld are not hugely different so we should adapt quickly."

"There is something very exciting about being in the same hotel as all the best cricketers in the world. It is quite special and the Champions Trophy is an event everybody wants to win."

Fred recalls booze cruise

Cricket

AFP, London

Andrew Flintoff has likened England's disastrous 2006-07 Ashes tour of Australia to a "booze cruise" and revealed how he smashed his own bat in despair as the tourists headed for a 5-0 whitewash.

The all-rounder, who retired from Test cricket after helping England regain the Ashes last month, has also admitted that his relationship with former England coach Duncan Fletcher had broken down before Fletcher disciplined him for his infamous booze-fuelled escapade on a pedalo during the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies.

In an updated edition of his autobiography, serialised in the Daily Mail, Flintoff describes how feeling "massively isolated" as captain of an under-performing England squad in Australia had resulted in him venting his frustration on his own kit.

"The problems had really started when we

were defeated in Adelaide to go 2-0 down," he writes. "I was in a bit of a muddle and didn't really know how to get out of it."

The 31-year-old adds: "My head had gone, probably with what had happened in the Ashes. The frustration was bubbling inside of me. I exploded."

"My bat was leaning against the bench in the dressing room, and I put my foot through it and broke it -- not the most intelligent thing to do."

Flintoff also admitted to turning up for a morning nets session still suffering from a night on the tiles.

"I'm not going to try to make excuses because I know I shouldn't have arrived for training smelling of booze. It was unprofessional but it was indicative of my state of mind at the time."

"I wasn't the only one, I hasten to add, and it wasn't just the players -- most of the support staff were at it more than we were. It was like being on a booze cruise."

England headed from Australia to the World Cup and it was there that the pedalo incident

SEE PAGE 18 COL 4

Yuvi suffers finger injury

CRICINFO, undated

India's preparations for their first match of the Champions Trophy on Saturday suffered a setback when Yuvraj Singh injured a finger on his right hand during a fielding session at the University Ground in Johannesburg. The injury was serious enough for him to miss the batting and bowling sessions that were conducted later in the day.

Yuvraj was attended to by physio Nitin Patel before heading for a medical examination. India's team manager Anurag Thakur said a scan would help determine the extent of the injury. "The tests will show whether he has fractured his finger," he said.

India have been plagued with injuries going into the tournament. Virender Sehwag did not travel to South Africa due to a shoulder injury, while Gautam Gambhir, who did not feature in the team's only practice match against New Zealand, is nursing a groin strain.

India's tournament opener is against Pakistan on Saturday, while they will take on Australia and West Indies next week.

Kim happy for Justine

INTERNET, undated

US Open champion Kim Clijsters hailed the return of compatriot Justine Henin to professional tennis as "brilliant".

"I think that Justine's comeback is good news for women's tennis but even better news for Belgium in general," Clijsters said on her website.

"Justine worked really hard in the past to achieve great results that she recorded in her first career. For tennis it is brilliant that she's back."

Clijsters and Henin were both ranked world number ones before they shocked the tennis world and Belgium when they quit the sport within a year of each other.

Henin, who announced her retirement 16 months ago, is expected to make her comeback at the start of the 2010 season in Australia.

The former world number one said she was full of admiration for Clijsters, who came out of a two-year break last month and won the US Open 10 days ago.

Henin added that completing her Grand Slam collection by winning an elusive Wimbledon title was one of the reasons behind her comeback.

"It [Wimbledon] is a dream of mine. I want to work to get it. I make it a priority," the seven-times Grand Slam champion said.

Lankans drub Proteas

AFP, Centurion



Tillakaratne Dilshan struck a century and Ajantha Mendis grabbed three key wickets as Sri Lanka cruised to a 55-run win over South Africa on Tuesday in the opening Champions Trophy game.

Opener Dilshan made 106 as his side reached 319-8 off 50 overs and spinner Mendis sent Graeme Smith, Jacques Kallis and JP Duminy packing as South Africa slumped to 206-7 when rain stopped play with 74 balls outstanding.

The Duckworth-Lewis method came into play and Sri Lanka emerged clearcut winners over opponents seeking a first ICC trophy since winning the inaugural Champions Trophy 11 years ago.

Smith opted to send Sri Lanka into bat on a run-rich pitch in a gamble that backfired as many of his bowlers revealed rust in their first competitive ODI appearance since losing to Australia last April.

Ranked the best ODI team in the world ahead of a two-week tournament second in importance only to the World Cup, South Africa must defeat New Zealand and England at the same venue this week or face a humiliating

first-round exit.

"We batted very well by doing the basics properly and building partnerships, but we need to brush up on our bowling with which I am about 80 per cent happy," said victorious captain Kumar Sangakkara.

Smith offered no excuses: "Tillakaratne and Kumar batted superbly and we must improve quickly and hopefully do a lot better. It is a question of getting the basics right."

A recent convert from the middle order, Dilshan hit 16 fours and one six in his 106 off 92 balls and a second-wicket partnership with Sangakkara reaped 158 runs on a slow, even-bounce pitch.

Dilshan finally departed off the first ball of the 29th over, caught at the boundary by Albie Morkel off the bowling of right-arm speedster Dale Steyn before a near-capacity crowd.

It was the third ODI century for the 2009 ICC Cricketer of the Year and Test Player of the Year nominee, whose career-best 137 came against Pakistan in Lahore this year.

Wicketkeeper Sangakkara had departed two overs before Dilshan, caught and bowled by JP Duminy for 54 when he played too early on the legside and got a leading edge.

The exploits of Dilshan and Sangakkara followed the early, cheap departure of the

SEE PAGE 18 COL 2

Henin returns too

Tennis

AFP, Brussels

Former world number one Justine Henin announced her return to the WTA tennis circuit on Tuesday saying "the flame has been rekindled" after a 16-month self-imposed retirement.

The 27-year-old seven-time Grand Slam winner broke the news on Belgian television and following compatriot Kim Clijsters, who capped her return with victory in the US Open this month.

"I was very impatient and I am really happy and deeply moved to be able to announce this evening that I will return to competition very quickly," she told RTL-TV1.

"It is surprising because on May 14, 2008, I called an end to my career."

"And then I've been down a

long personal road. And then the flame has been rekindled, I thought it had been extinguished."

Coach Carlos Rodriguez said Henin wanted to win Wimbledon, the only Grand

return," said the Argentinian

vowing "to make her even

better than before."

Henin had retired saying

the desire had gone and she

wanted to take care of her

family, foundation and tennis

school.

But talk of a Henin return

started last month when she

resumed training to play in

exhibition matches in

Charleroi, Belgium, and Dubai

at the end of the year.

Then there was the stunning

success of compatriot

and old rival Clijsters who won

the US Open on September 13

just five weeks after she ended

two years of retirement during

which time she married and

had a baby.

Born in the city of Liege in

the French-speaking part of

Belgium, Henin burst onto the

international scene in 2001

with three WTA tour victories.

Small in stature but gifted

SEE PAGE 18 COL 5



Archer Sajjad Hossain poses with his gold medal and a bouquet of flowers during his reception held by Bangladesh Olympic Association at the National Sports Council yesterday. Sajjad won gold in the individual recurve 70m event at the 4th Asian Archery Grand Prix Championship in Kolkata on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR