



Did U Know?

In September 1999, 17-year-old Serena Williams defeated Martina Hingis in the US Open final...



Frank Lampard

(England midfielder) He is different class. I think everyone knows what Coley brings us...

Huma Akram laid to rest

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Huma Akram, 42, died in Chennai on Sunday and her body was brought to Pakistan's eastern metropolis...

"Huma's loss is great and I request my fans to pray for me so that I am able to raise my kids..."

Former teammates Inzamamul Haq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ijaz Ahmed, Moin Khan and Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt were among the mourners.

Huma was admitted to hospital in Chennai last Tuesday after her condition deteriorated in an air ambulance while being flown from Lahore to Singapore for treatment.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani led the messages of condolence sent to Wasim.

Shakil Kasem

FROM PAGE 17 Khatun, Sathira Zakir Jessy, Ayesha Akhter and Panna Ghosh have been named in the Grade 1 while Shuklara, Champa Chakma, Farzana and Lata Mondal has been selected for Grade 2 and Rumana Akhter, Soheli, Fatematz Zahra and Tithi Rani will enjoy Grade 3.

Meanwhile, the board selected Nadir Shah to conduct the ICC Under-19 World Cup matches in New Zealand next year.

MSC start

FROM PAGE 17 things would get better in the matches to come.

Despite losing to Mohammedan for the third time this season, Feni coach Zahidur Rahman Milon was happy with the performance his boys put on.

TEAMS MOHAMMEDAN: Shakil, Wail Faisal, Ariful Islam, Hasan Al Mamun, Nasir, Enamul Haq Sharif, Abdul Baten Komol (Shakil Ahmed), Zahid Hossain (Alamgir Kabir), Mamunul Islam, Christina Emeka and Zahid Hasan Emily.

FENI SOCCER CLUB: Golam Mostafa Tuhan, Nurul Amin Shipon, Mintu Sheikh, Mostafa Kaba, Abu Sufian Zahid, Akramuzzaman, Monayem Khan Raju, Asif Yousuf, Emrul Hasan, Ashrafur Kader Manju (Tabith Awal).

Yellow cards: Liton, Raju (Feni Soccer) Referee: Shahidur Rahman Lalu.

Sachin's lbw judgement

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Umpires should be left to adjudge only leg-before decisions while technology takes care of the rest, according to Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar.

Tendulkar, 36, who begins his 21st year in international cricket next month, even advocated rotating on-field umpires every session of a Test match to give them adequate rest, but denounced the referral system.

Tendulkar, a veteran of 159 Tests and 431 one-day internationals, said he was in favour of more technology in cricket to make the umpire's task more accurate.

"It is tough for the umpires to watch the no-balls and watch what's happening in the front," he was quoted as saying on the 'India Today' website.

"For basic line decisions, like no-balls and run outs, you must have a laser or something like that. Something like what you have in tennis to decide serves.

"You can call it [a no-ball] with a machine."

Tendulkar said bat-pad decisions can be relied on television X-ray technology called "hot spots" which clearly illustrates the first point of contact of the ball -- either pad or bat.

"They should use the hot spot for bat-pad decisions, so the main umpire has to make only the leg-before calls," he said. "I'm quite happy with the hot spot because that establishes the contact.

"For caught behind and all, the hot spot will come. Close-in catches, again the hot spot will come. You don't need a machine for clean bowled, so only the leg-before decisions is what the umpire has to concentrate on."

Tendulkar, the world's most prolific batsman, said three on-field umpires should be nominated so that they can take turns to rest for a session of a Test.

But he did not support the new referral system, where umpires get help from a colleague watching television replays to adjudicate on close decisions.

"I'm not particularly happy with the referrals because I'm not convinced of the TV angles," he said. "I wasn't happy when we first went through it [on the tour of Sri Lanka last year]."

Hauritz wastes no time

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

There was no obvious Champions League Twenty20 hangover for Nathan Hauritz, who raced into Australia's squad and settled in immediately as the visitors held on for a four-run victory in the first ODI on Sunday.

Hauritz had been a key man in New South Wales' 2.5-million-dollar success on Friday and he, Brett Lee and Doug Bollinger made it to the national team's hotel only 12 hours before the toss in Vadodara.

While the timing upset Ricky Ponting, Hauritz stood up and allowed only 11 runs from his first five overs, stifling India's chase of Australia's 292 for eight. He finished with one for 34 off nine as the hosts were restricted despite a late burst from Harbhajan Singh and Praveen Kumar. It ended a huge weekend that bolstered the domestic players' pockets and gave Australia an early edge in the seven-game series.

"It was pretty tough," Hauritz told AAP. "We didn't get out of the change room until I am that morning [after the final], flew out at midday and got in at 8.30 the night before the game. Becoming the inaugural champions you still have to celebrate with your teammates, but in the back of your mind you still take it a bit easy because you've got to pull up and play in [less than] 48 hours.

"The body is still tired but at the end of the day you're playing for your country and you virtually don't want to miss a game. I try to never take a game for granted."

Hauritz remained in good shape but Lee was troubled by a sore elbow and delivered only six

overs. Lee was not used towards the end of the innings and Australia were also without James Hopes, who was forced off after 12 deliveries with a hamstring injury. Hopes has had scans and is unlikely to be considered for Wednesday's match in Nagpur while Lee will continue to be monitored.

Hauritz is not a concern and will have to take on a big role in this series, with Jon Holland, the rookie left-arm spinner, the only other specialist slow bowler in the squad. After being the first-choice throughout the year, Hauritz is happy to be operating on wickets offering more turn.

"I don't know if the way I bowl has really ever changed too much," he said. "Maybe people are perceiving it [to be attacking] a little bit more -- I still try and bowl the same way every time. Bowling on a few more turning wickets people can actually see the ball spin, so I'm not the person that just bowls straight-breaks any more."

Australia's slow-bowling situation is being closely monitored -- five have been used in Tests since Stuart MacGill's retirement last year -- and Cricket Australia commissioned a report that showed fewer overs were being delivered by spinners in the Sheffield Shield. "It is good to see them paying a little more attention to the spin-bowling aspect, but I think sometimes too it's taken a little bit of out context," Hauritz said. "There's a lot of good spinners around -- we've got myself, young Jon Holland on this tour, Jason Krejza, Bryce McGain back home -- so we're all still there."

"It's just a matter of whenever the spinners get the opportunity they just have to do what they do. I think, over time, the Australian public will learn to adapt to us."

Safina regains top spot

Tennis

AFP, Doha

Dinara Safina moved back to the top of the world rankings on Monday, and insisted she has given up worrying about her critics who are adamant that the Russian is unworthy of being world number one.

Sill without a Grand Slam title, the Russian deposed 11-time major winner Serena Williams to begin her 26th week on top of the standings in 2009.

"I don't care anymore. They can say whatever they want," said the 23-year-old ahead of the season-ending WTA Championships which start here on Tuesday.

"I have been in three Grand Slam finals and I've been in two semis. It's there. Last year I was winning every tournament and they were asking me why I'm not No. 1.

"This year I became No. 1, there is no Grand Slam. Every day is going to be something.

It's not that I don't want to win a Grand Slam. But I guess I need to work a little bit more, improve some things, to make me stronger to deal with this."

As well as the glaring



DINARA SAFINA

absence of a major title from her CV, Safina has also crumbled when the Grand Slam exposure was at its sharpest.

She won just three games in her Australian Open final loss

to Williams, was beaten again in straight sets by compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova in the French Open title match before a third-round loss to Petra Kvitova in the US Open.

Just as Venus Williams was her 6-1, 6-0 loss to Daming Williams in the Wimbledon semi-finals, a defeat which again illustrated her mental frailties.

"Some things I like this, I'm too open. It's very bad, I know," she admitted.

"Many people don't even have to say how I feel, I can show them. This thing I have to learn. I think I have improved compared to how I was before."

"But you're not robot that you play hundred percent."

MU crash

FROM PAGE 17 you are going to have disappointments. Last year we lost 4-1 at home to Liverpool, got hold of the bit again and won the league. That's our challenge."

For Ferguson's longtime rival Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, there was fresh frustration in a match where the Gunners had been in complete command.

"It's disappointing," the Frenchman said. "We couldn't get that third goal to finish it off even though we had plenty of opportunities."

Second-half goals from Joleon Lescott and Martin Petrov put Manchester City in front before impressive finishes from Damien Duff and Clint Dempsey helped visitors Fulham gain a point.

Ivan Klasnic's first Bolton goal sealed victory for the Trotters, who moved up five places into 12th spot.

Bolton went 2-0 ahead through Lee Chung-Yong and Gary Cahill before Louis Saha and Marouane Fellaini drew Everton level only for Klasnic to deny the Toffees a draw.

MS hails

FROM PAGE 17 "I thought Ishant bowled really well and hit right areas.

If he is bowling well his speed automatically goes up. That's when you know he's bowling in right rhythm and is in the right frame of mind," Dhoni remarked after the match.

Ishant returned with figures of 3 for 50 in 10 overs and seemed to hit the deck hard and looked in good rhythm after a couple of overs in his first spell.



Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus exults after beating Olivier Rochus of Belgium in the Stockholm Open final on Sunday.

Baghdatis ends title drought

Tennis

AFP, Stockholm

Marcos Baghdatis broke through for his third career ATP title Sunday with a 6-1, 7-5 defeat of Olivier Rochus to lift the Stockholm Open crown, success which the Cypriot hopes will kick-start his 2010 season.

But there will be little time to rest for the world number 66, who claimed his first trophy since Zagreb in February, 2007.

After a few days at home on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus next week, the 2006 Australian Open finalist will wrap up his season with a Challenger in South Korea.

"That's it, that will be enough," said the player, who has been tormented by injuries

for the past few seasons.

Baghdatis solidified his rebuilding campaign in fine style Sunday as he ended the final with his 15th ace against Belgium's Rochus, who said he never expected to get this far this week.

Marcos played just great, but I surprised myself also," said the finalist, "coached" this week by his Swedish girlfriend.

Baghdatis will be improving his 66th ranking with an eye on next season as he finally looks ahead to some good luck.

"My goal is to stay healthy and try to play some consistent tennis," said the winner, who only got word of his entry into the Stockholm main draw last weekend when he was playing a semifinal at the Tashkent Challenger, his third trophy at that level since August.

Tour Down Under Yousuf wants to make mark

Cricket

PTI, Karachi

Reckoning it could well be his last tour of the region, senior batsman Mohammad Yousuf is keen to score truckloads of runs to enhance his stature when Pakistan tour New Zealand and Australia later this year.

"I am 35 and have had a long career and this might be my last tour to New Zealand and Australia. So I am keen to make a lot of runs against them this time," Yousuf said.

Yousuf has been named in both the Test and one-day squads that would first play an ODI series in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and then tour New Zealand for three Test matches.

Pakistan team will then fly out to Australia from New Zealand in mid-December to play three Tests and five One Day Internationals.

The selectors will announce the squad for Australia later on.

Afridi seeks Test break

Cricket

PTI, Karachi

Flamboyant batsman Shahid Afridi has told Pakistani selectors not to consider him for Test matches until next year's cricket World Cup saying that he wants to concentrate on the one-day and Twenty20 formats.

"There is a lot of international cricket being played these days and I think it is better if I focus on these two forms of the game in the period leading up to the World Cup," Afridi said.

Afridi, who last played a Test in July, 2006 in England, said the next two years were very important for Pakistan cricket with the T20 and 50-over World Cups lined up.

"I would love to see our team winning both competitions and I feel we have the potential to do this," the spin all-rounder told the Jung newspaper.

The gamble that paid off

Cricket

CrICINFO, undated

At the start of the 48th over of the first one-day international on Sunday, Australia captain Ricky Ponting sprinted from cover and Brett Lee from long-on to have a chat, around the 30-yard circle, close to mid-on. Lee had bowled just six overs of his quota.

India's Harbhajan Singh and Praveen Kumar, with their freak hitting, were threatening to achieve the improbable: chasing 293 from a worrisome 201 for 7 in 39.5 overs. After a few moments, having to shout amidst the din, Lee headed back to long-on, thumbs up, and Peter Siddle got the ball.

Turns out Lee had a sore elbow, and Ponting punted on a younger man. Siddle went round the wicket, started with a wide, and went for a six and a four later in the over. "I would have loved to have bowled him [Lee] in the last few overs of the game," Ponting said later. Quite a different picture from Mohali last year when Lee wanted to bowl, but Ponting wouldn't let him because of the already slow over-rates.

This time, though, Ponting had no choice, and he went for his next best bet. "Shane Watson is one of our better finishers, probably one of our best finishers to tell you the truth," Ponting said. With 29 required from the last two overs, Watson went for 1, 4, 4, 1, 4 & 6. The last 10 overs or so featured full-tosses, catches parried over for sixes, misfields at the boundary and in the ring, half-volleys, wide balls and every other possible crime. The delirium among the full house could be felt in the open-air press box.

Clearly, Australia were under the cosh, having let the game slip from their hands, wilting under crowd pressure and the other team's momentum.

Ponting didn't hide his exasperation at what transpired in the last 10 overs. "We played well enough to win the game," he said. "I would have been disappointed if we hadn't crossed the line after having largely played well through the course of the game."

With nine required off the last over, Ponting had another chat with Lee, but this time he went for The Punt, something he is not extensively known for doing as captain. He could have easily asked Lee to bail him out, but he went for Siddle again. "Once again it was going to be a good experience for Peter Siddle as well," Ponting said later, explaining his choices in the last few overs.

Siddle finally held his own, stunning the crowd by bowling Harbhajan off the second ball, and then bowling four full, straight deliveries. "After his first few deliveries, when he went round the wicket to experiment, it didn't quite work, and he went back over and executed the plan well," Ponting said.

Having escaped this defeat-from-jaws-of-victory, Ponting afforded himself a joke too. Asked whether Harbhajan, their old nemesis, was up to it again, he refused to share credit. "Harbhajan didn't take the game away from us, though he did come close," he said. "I think our bowling in the last 10 overs, I mean I don't think that we can be that bad again."

He was asked again, "But Harbhajan played well?" The reply provided the series with much-needed needle: "He played well... but not well enough."

U-19s thrash England

FROM PAGE 17

and Sabbir Rahman claimed one wicket each to wrap up the tail.

Opener Anamul Haque then struck a half-century as the home side raced to 100 in 22.1 overs to take a 2-0 lead in the seven-match series.

Anamul struck 56 off 65 balls that contained seven fours and two sixes. He was aggressive right from the word go and raced to his 50 off 47 balls. His opening partner Amir Majumdar however was painstakingly slow and scored a struggling four off 32 balls before Paul Best ended his misery in the 12th over, leaving the scoreboard reading 57 for 1.

Anamul was run out with the home side barely 14 runs away from victory that

Tasamul Haque and Mominul Haque milked without much ado.

Earlier, England opener James Vince top-scored with 21 which was followed by his partner Joe Root's 19 and Nathan Buck's 17.

The third match will take place at the same venue today.

Cook hammers record 390 runs

AFP, Johannesburg

Stephen Cook scored a South African first-class record 390 runs in a four-day national championship match that ended Sunday.

The 26-year-old Highveld Lions opener batted for 838 minutes over three days, faced 648 balls and struck 53 fours and one six against Eastern Cape Warriors in East London before being trapped leg before by Johan Botha.

A son of former South Africa Test batsman Jimmy Cook reached 100 off 226 balls, 200 off 411 and 300 off 569 as the Lions ended the final day on 690-9 off 224 overs in their first innings of a drawn match.

No astro-turf

FROM PAGE 17

solution and the sports minister would be present there.

BFF vice-president Badal Roy said that they had accepted the demand of the local people.

He however said that the patients and the children would be allowed to use the field for a certain period of a day.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

Y'BJYQG LA MAOP W KGFJDBGB
OGJYNYADK FAPPDRYLS MAO
PAJDKQK WRB FWJJ YL WR
ASKLGO FJAYKLGO.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH MAKEUP APPLICATOR DO YOU THINK A SNOB WOULD MOST LIKELY BE USING? HIGHBROW PENCIL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals D