

SECOND T20 INT'L AGAINST AUSTRALIA NZ seal super win

Cricket
CRICINFO, undated

A superb match needed a Super Over to split the teams and New Zealand prevailed to repay Brendon McCullum for his amazing century. McCullum became the second-highest scorer in a Twenty20 international with an unbeaten 116, but after Michael Clarke and Cameron White exploded in the reply the scores were tied at 214 after 40 overs.

A six-ball tiebreaker was required and the calm Tim Southee delivered another tight over to allow only six runs for White, David Warner and Brad Haddin. Shaun Tait's brute force arrived. White warmed up with a six over cover off Daniel Vettori, then caressed an inside-out clearance in the same area and was dropped on the boundary attempting a third.

He then powered two fours and a six off Franklin before flicking Shane Bond into the spectators at square leg. The 13 that came from Bond's final over left Australia wanting 36 off 18 deliveries, but the first of three magically controlled Southee efforts made it 30 from 12.

needed muscle with 64 off 26 in a pursuit that was almost perfectly timed. However, Clarke and White could only scurry two from the final ball when three were short of his ground.

Needing two off almost every delivery throughout the second innings, the Australians managed to stay on track after Warner departed for a McCullum-style 20 off 10. Haddin (47 off 37) and Clarke (47 off 37) and Clarke, who was travelling much quicker than his usual pace, were able to stay close to the rate so they required 125 from the final 60 balls.

James Franklin slowed things down briefly with the wickets of Haddin and David Hussey (10) before White's brute force arrived. White warmed up with a six over cover off Daniel Vettori, then caressed an inside-out clearance in the same area and was dropped on the boundary attempting a third.

He then powered two fours and a six off Franklin before flicking Shane Bond into the spectators at square leg. The 13 that came from Bond's final over left Australia wanting 36 off 18 deliveries, but the first of three magically controlled Southee efforts made it 30 from 12.

White survived a run-out and found two boundaries and a six down the ground off Jacob Oram to cut the margin to 12. In Southee's final over the bowler showed the maturity of a 30-year-old, not a boy who is 21, by delivering more pin-point yorkers to keep his side in the game.

And he proved it wasn't a fluke by doing it again in the Super Over. The result levelled the series and delivered Australia their first loss of their summer while setting up an intriguing five-match one-day contest beginning on Wednesday.

Despite the flurry of absorbing action at the end, it was McCullum's fireworks over the first half of the match that were the highlight. He showered boundaries around the tiny stadium and the change in attitude left the Australians, who had rested Mitchell Johnson and Shane Watson, wondering if there was any way to stop the run avalanche. They were able to slow it a couple of times, but McCullum carried his team through the loss of six wickets and achieved the side's highest total.

His hundred came up in 50 balls, equalling the record of Chris Gayle, the only other century-maker in this format. It was achieved with a single to

deep cover, at which point the batsman ripped off his helmet to take in the applause, but he was not finished and carried his bat. Nathan McCullum joined his brother at the end, getting 14 in a 50-run stand in 3.2 overs on an afternoon that stunned everyone.

The big crowd of 26,148 was sprinkled by McCullum's eight sixes and he backed up with a dozen fours during the barrage. Four of the boundaries came with "McScoops" past or over the wicketkeeper, but that was nothing compared to the two sixes he managed to shovel behind himself off Tait. It was brave and brutal - one of the clearances off Tait came from a 155kph thunderbolt.

McCullum proved he wouldn't be intimidated by Australia's quick bowlers when he charged the third ball of the day from Tait (2 for 40) and bashed him for four through cover. There were 10 runs from the eventful over, which also contained the ugly bowled of the out-classed Peter Ingram for 0 and Tait sending a finger signal to McCullum.

SCORES IN BRIEF
AUSTRALIA: 214 for 4 (Clarke 67, White 64*).
NEW ZEALAND: 214 for 6 (McCullum 116*).
Result: New Zealand won after Super Over.

Nat'l chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Masuda Begum emerged champion in the preliminary round of the 31st National Chess Championship after beating Titli in the eighth and final round at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Hall Room yesterday.

Masuda of Barisal earned 6.5 points from seven outings. Nazrana Khan Eva of Muzaffargarh became runner-up and WFM Zakia Sultana finished third through tiebreaker after both earned six points each.

Top seven players Masuda, Eva, Zakia, Runu, Protiva, Shimmi and Moly of the championship will join direct qualifiers reigning champion WFM Shamima Akter Liza, runners-up Sharmin Sultana Sharin, IWM Rani Hamid, rated WFM Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa and WFM Tanima Parveen in the Swiss-League final phase.

AFC agrees

FROM PAGE 17
That member countries like India had one of the oldest traditions of football in the world.

The SAFF meeting discussed a competitions calendar for 2010 and 2011, the SAFF Statutes, the setting-up of standing committees, the introduction of the SAFF clubs championship and SAFF women's championship.

SAFF president Kazi Salahuddin said the SAFF countries would work hard to improve their football and shed their "weakest link" image.

Hleb not

FROM PAGE 20
Hleb confirmed that his relationship with Gross is the reason why he will turn his back on the Swabians at the end of the season.

"I have no idea what he expects from me, but I have a problem with him," he said. "Before the Cologne game, we had a chat, but nothing came of it."

Bayer held

FROM PAGE 20
side were given a scare by Benjamin Kohler's opener.

Sebastian Prodl's winner five minutes into the second half reignited Werder Bremen's charge for European football as they moved to within a point of the Bundesliga's top five with a 2-1 victory over 10-man Mainz.

Bremen took full advantage of Borussia Dortmund's defeat at Schalke on Friday to close the gap as Prodl won it after Aristide Bance struck on half-time to cancel out Tim Borowski's opener. But Mainz were always on the back-foot after having Florian Hoffer sent off only the 14th minute.

Shawcross

FROM PAGE 20
"There was absolutely no malice in the challenge. I would never, ever go out to hurt a fellow professional."

"I am deeply upset that Aaron has suffered such a bad injury and my thoughts are with him. I would like to send him my best wishes too for a speedy recovery."

Kirsten defends it

Cricket
CRICINFO, undated

After a new-look India were convincingly beaten by South Africa in Ahmedabad, coach Gary Kirsten has said the depth of talent in his side shouldn't be gauged based on just one performance. India fielded two debutants, opener M Vijay and fast bowler Abhimanyu Mithun, and had only two players with more than 50 one-dayers under their belt in the dead rubber.

"It's difficult to judge the bench strength by one game," Kirsten said after the 90-run defeat. "I see it as an opportunity for the younger players but you cannot judge them by one performance."

With a core of experienced team members performing consistently, Kirsten said the reserve players were not getting enough chances at the international level. "We want to win every series and this does not give opportunities for the younger players to get the exposure. But this was a good learning experience for them."

The home side were without their entire first-choice bowling line-up of Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Praveen Kumar and Harbhajan Singh, and the inexperienced bowling unit, led by Sreesanth, was taken for 365 runs by

South Africa.

Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said India missed the variations of Zaheer and Nehra. "The three fast bowlers that we played, their strength was not change of pace," he said. "If we had somebody like Ashish Nehra or Zaheer, things would have been different."

India had a particularly tough time while bowling at the death, with the pair of Jacques Kallis and AB de Villiers blasting 100 runs in the final seven overs. "With the kind of the start they got it would have been difficult to restrict them to 300," Dhoni said, "but I think 340 would have been competitive and we could have looked to get it."

Despite the defeat in the final ODI, Dhoni was happy with India's performance over the season, during which they beat Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Test series, before pulling off a memorable win in Kolkata earlier this month to draw the Tests with South Africa and retain their No. 1 ranking. He identified the fielding as one department that needed plenty of improvement.

"We have done well over the season, there have been injuries, we have missed key players, if you look at everything, we have done really well," he said. "Our bowling has improved in bits and pieces, we have done well. Youngsters are doing well. May be in one year we will also put up the best fielding side in the world."



State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker (5th from L) inaugurates the Grameenphone 24th Bangladesh ITF Junior Tennis Championships at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna on Friday.

Consolation win

FROM PAGE 17
De Villiers, who made an unbeaten 114 in the previous match in Gwalior on Wednesday, completed his second successive hundred with a four off part-timer Sharma in the final over. He hit three sixes and 11 boundaries.

Amla and Bosman set the pace after their team elected to bat on a good track, dominating the Indian attack to add 113 for the opening wicket.

Bosman was more aggressive, hitting seamer Sudeep Tyagi for three fours in an over and then pulling Sreesanth for the first six of the match.

He raced to his second half-century in one-day internationals in style, lofting off-spinner Yusuf Pathan over long-on for a six. He fell playing strokes, caught at long-off while attempting a big shot off Pathan.

Bosman hit four sixes and seven fours in his 46-ball knock.

runs comfortably against both pace and spin before being caught in the deep off spinner Jadeja.

SCOREBOARD
The third and final one-day international between India and South Africa at the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday:
SOUTH AFRICA
Bosman c Jadeja b Pathan 88
Amla c Vijay b Jadeja 67
Kallis not out 104
De Villiers not out 102
Extras: (lb-2, nb-2) 4
Total: (For two wickets in 50 overs) 365
Did not bat: Gibbs, Boucher, Botha, Van der Merwe, Steyn, Morkel, Tsotsobe.

Bowler O M R W
Sreesanth 9 0 83 0
Tyagi 8 0 59 0
Mithun 8 0 63 0
Jadeja 10 0 53 1
Pathan 10 0 66 1
Kohli 2 0 11 0
Sharma 3 0 28 0

INDIA
Karthik c Amla b Steyn 25
Vijay c Boucher b Tsotsobe 11
Kohli c Boucher b Steyn 57
Sharma c Tsotsobe b Botha 48
Dhoni c Boucher b Steyn 9
Raina c sub (Parnell) b Botha 49
Pathan c Steyn b Tsotsobe 5
Jadeja c Boucher b Tsotsobe 36
Sreesanth lbw b Van der Merwe 21
Mithun st Boucher b Van der Merwe 24
Tyagi not out 1
Extras: (lb-5, w-4) 9
Total: (All out in 44.3 overs) 275
Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-40, 3-135, 4-156, 5-157, 6-179, 7-233, 8-237, 9-273.

Bowler O M R W
Steyn 8 1 37 3
Tsotsobe 9.3 0 58 3
Morkel 7 0 48 0
Van der Merwe 10 0 47 2
Botha 10 0 80 2
Result: South Africa won by 90 runs and clinched three-match series 2-1.
Man-of-the-match: AB de Villiers.
Man-of-the-series: Sachin Tendulkar.



Brothers Masters players party with the trophy of the beach football tournament at the Seagull Point of Cox's Bazar sea beach on Saturday.

Brothers take beach trophy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Brothers Masters clinched title of the first-ever beach football tournament beating Rahmatganj Masters in the final at Seagull Point of Cox's Bazar sea beach on Saturday.

The champions ran away with the trophy and a cheque of Tk 1 lakh with a 4-1 win. The runners-up were awarded Tk 50,000. Brothers' Masud Rana was adjudged the man-of-the-match while their goalkeeper Atique became man-of-the-tournament.

The two-day meet got underway on Friday morning with former star booters taking part. Six teams, split into two groups, took part in the tournament, first of its kind in Bangladesh.

ITF JUNIOR TENNIS Mufazzal moves on

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Mufazzal Hossain advanced into the second phase of the qualifying round in the Grameenphone 24th Bangladesh ITF Junior Tennis Championship with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Korean Gimang Park in boy's singles at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

However, Sajib Passi, Nahid Islam Romel and Mohammad Rustam Ali lost their first games to Hsing Yao Huang of Chinese Taipei, Aoxiong Wang of China and Zeye Li of China respectively and were eliminated from the qualification round.

Besides, Koreans Keumseong Jeong, Yunho Kim and Tzu Chun Huang won their respective matches to advance into the next round.

In girl's singles, British Sarah Beth Askew, Roisin Mullins, Indians Rimpledeep Kaur That, Chinese Zianghong Yin and Sansitha Nandakumar moved into the next round.

Kulfa Goshtli Manikganj champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Kulfa Goshtli became champions in the AM Sayedur Rahman Memorial T-20 cricket tournament with a seven-wicket victory over Green Valley at the Shaheed Miraj-Tapan Stadium here yesterday.

Green Valley batted first and were bowled out for only 64 runs in 19.3 overs. Rocky took three wickets while Rabby and Obaidur took two wickets each for Kulfa Goshtli.

In reply, Kulfa Goshtli reached 69 runs in just 11.4 overs with Rocky scoring highest 29 not out and Aizal making 21.

Rocky of Kulfa Goshtli was adjudged man-of-the-final for his brilliant all-round performance.

A total of eight teams took part in the tournament.

Djokovic keeps Dubai title

Tennis

AFP, Dubai

Novak Djokovic of Serbia won the weather-hit ATP Dubai Open on Sunday, defeating Russia's Mikhail Youzhny 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 in a roller coaster of a final.

The match had been held over from Saturday because of heavy rain with defending champion Djokovic 7-5, 2-0 ahead.

At that stage the second seeded Serb had appeared to be coasting to his first ever defence of an ATP title when the first rain seen in the Emirates since early January sent players and fans alike scampering for cover.

But all that changed when the two players got back on court in hot, sunny conditions on Sunday. Youzhny first of all broke back to level at 4-4 and then, helped by two Djokovic double faults, he put himself into position to serve for the second set.

The frustrated Serb was warned for racket abuse at the changeover but his display of temper appeared to help him refocus as he broke back in the following game to level at 5-5.

Once again though the Djokovic serve failed to function and he was broken to love on the back of three unforced errors.

This time Youzhny, who beat Djokovic in the Rotterdam semi-finals two weeks ago, made no

mistake, holding his own serve to love to level the setscores.

Djokovic regained the initiative at the start of the deciding set, breaking Youzhny's serve with a big forehand down the line in the second game as he moved out into a 3-0 lead.

But once again the Russian dug deep to break back two games later, drawing level once more at 3-3.

Youzhny had a break point to go 4-3 up, but blasted wide with a cross-court forehand as Djokovic looked to be out of the rally.

The Russian paid the full price in the following game when two unforced errors gave Djokovic two break points and he converted the second of those when Youzhny hit a forehand long after an energy-sapping rally.

Djokovic comfortably served out to clinch his first title win of the year and consolidate his world number two ranking behind Roger Federer.

"The ball travels so fast during the day, it's incredible. It's like ten times faster than during the night. It's much less control during the day, so it's frustrating," said the Serb of the problems both players faced adapting to the different Sunday playing conditions.

"Today was another good example of how much I believe in myself and how much I fight till the end," he added.

Youzhny said that he had gone out to play aggressive tennis to try and turn the match around and that his tactics had almost paid off.

England stun

FROM PAGE 17

Australia paid dearly for converting just one of their 13 penalty corners in the match.

Australia and England are drawn in group B alongside Spain, South Korea, India and Pakistan, with two teams advancing to the semi-finals.

Group A comprises defending champions Germany, the Netherlands, Argentina, Canada, South Korea and New Zealand.

The South Africans, ranked 13th in the world, stunned the number three Spaniards with the first goal in the 16th minute through a lightning strike by Julian Hykes.

Spain, who lost to Germany in the Beijing Olympics final, hit back with two goals in three minutes through Roc Oliva and David Alegre to take a 2-1 lead by the 21st minute.

The African champions, however, equalised five minutes before the break when Ian Halsey pushed in a goal following a rebound off a penalty corner.

Spain returned after the interval to score through Rodrigo

Nadim drives

FROM PAGE 17

in the face of fierce spell from pacer Kazi Kamrul (4-36) and spinning web from Elias Sunny (4-86).

Despite losing three early wickets, Chittagong looked on the right track with opener Gazi Salahuddin leading the way with unbeaten 43 and Elias Sunny was with him on seven.

SCORES IN BRIEF
DHAKA v RAJSHAHI
DHAKA: First innings 330-5 in 90 overs (Nadimuddin 147, Shamsur 63, Marshal 59 not out, Roni 27, Mehrab Hossain 10, Shuvagoto 14 not out; Delwar 2-46, Saqlain 2-76)

KHULNA v CHITTAGONG
KHULNA: First innings 241 all out in 70.4 overs (Amit 42, Nizamuddin 31, Mithun 30, Dollar 29, Sahagur 27, extras 18; Kamrul 4-36, Elias 4-86)
CHITTAGONG: First innings 83-3 in 17 overs (Salahuddin 43 not out, Nazimuddin 17, Nafees 2, Mamun 1; Rasel 2-28, Monwar 1-11)

School hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Pulerhat High School and Habiganj High School emerged regional champions in the School Hockey Tournament winning their respective finals at different venues yesterday.

Pulerhat High School of Jessore handed a 4-0 defeat to Kanchannagar High School of Jhenidah while Habiganj High School defeated Aided High School of Sylhet 3-0.

Meanwhile, four teams have qualified for the final phase to be held in Dhaka.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 U.K. fliers
4 Light applications
8 Campus area
12 John's Yoko
13 Birthright barterer
14 Language of Pakistan
15 Like (very rapidly)
17 Holly-wood clashers
18 Unable to hear
19 Not just plump
20 Work in a refinery
22 Mani-pedi prop
24 Tortoise's chal-lenger
25 Deuce, maybe
29 Past
30 Layered rock
31 Ultra-modernist

DOWN

1 Tier
2 Singer DiFranco
3 Nonsense
4 Trim a roast
5 "Yeah, right!"
6 Prohibit
7 Take to court
8 Where joul is spoken
9 Incite
10 Commotions
11 Bernhardt contem-porary
16 Take a letter?
19 Shoppe description
20 "Pygmalion" writer
21 Creche trio
22 Decreases
23 Troubles
25 "Pow!"
26 Pesky
27 Paper quantity
28 Feet, slangily
30 Take to the skies
33 Get all wet
34 Soak up
36 Bathroom fixture
37 Covers
38 Met melody
39 Pitch
40 Utah ski resort
42 Vacillate
43 Hostel
44 Appomat-tox surrenderer
45 Allow

Solution time: 25 mins.

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BEDLAM AGES
SHINE ATM EYES
YEGG ABE TUES
NAN DUO WASNT
CLOSED BOK
MENU POETRY
ALIT BRA OHIO
SENT OUR FOLK
KAYO NET FREE

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CRYPTOQUIP

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EZ W WSEL PLUBCKX
WLXXERGYCXKCE V SZGJ
GSYL? WKB BENZUIALUE
NZUILUE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SLOGAN USED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS WHO ARE STUDYING ICEBERGS: "GO WITH THE FLOE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O