



South African world champion Caster Semenya sits by the track during a meet in Lapinlahti, Finland on Sunday. The 19-year-old clocked 2min 02.42sec in her favoured 800m event to grab the gold, improving by almost two seconds the time she set three days earlier.

PHOTO: AFP

**BDCA names new ad-hoc committee**

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Deaf Cricket Association (BDCA) has formed an ad-hoc committee with Firoz Ahmed as its convener.

The three-member committee, which was formed at the federation's temporary office in Mirpur on July 2, also includes MI Chowdhury as member secretary and Mizanur Rahman as a member.

The committee will work on the formation of the association and registration so that an election can be held as soon as possible.

**Kaneria out, Ajmal in?**

ANI, London

Pakistan may drop leg-spinner Danish Kaneria and bring in off-spinner Saeed Ajmal for the second and final Test against Australia, starting at Headingley from Wednesday.

According to a Pakistan team official, the management feels that the Australians have got many left-handed batsmen, and Ajmal along with the fast bowlers would form the best possible attack.

"There is no doubt that Danish Kaneria is the best Test spinner we have got in the team but considering the fact that Australians have got too many left handed batsmen in the team we would use the best option. At the moment we believe that Saeed would be more suited," The News quoted a team official, as saying.

"Saeed Ajmal always tends to bowl 'doosra' and that helps get wickets especially that of left hander. It is the only option we are considering at the moment," he added.

He further said that a final decision would be taken during the team's meeting - a day ahead of the Test match.

**Swann in trouble**

AFP, London

England cricketer Graeme Swann has been charged with drink driving, police said Monday.

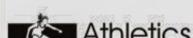
The Nottinghamshire off-spinner, ranked the third best Test bowler in the world, was stopped near his home in the West Bridgford area of Nottingham, central England, on April 2.

The 31-year-old will appear before magistrates in Nottingham on August 16.

Swann has been charged with "driving a motor vehicle when his alcohol level was above the limit," a Nottinghamshire Police spokeswoman said.

In May, Swann was named England's cricketer of the year. He was also named the man-of-the-series on England's last two tours, to South Africa and Bangladesh.

**Another win for Semenya**



AFP, Helsinki

South African world champion Caster Semenya crowned her comeback week following an 11-month absence caused by a gender controversy with an easy victory in the 800m at a low-key meeting on Sunday.

Semenya clocked 2min 02.42sec in her favoured event at the Lapinlahti meet, improving by almost two seconds the time she set in her first outing since her lengthy break three days earlier.

Stepping on the gas over the last 250m, the 19-year-old world champion was too good for second-placed Sofia Oberg of Sweden, who timed 2min 04.27sec and Russia's Anna Verkhovskaya, who came third in 2min 04.41sec.

Following her win, a smiling Semenya completed a lap of honour although the hard work

still lies ahead with Sunday's time a long way off her world title winning run of 1min 55.45sec in Berlin in 2009.

On Thursday, Semenya returned to action at Lappeenranta, a small town 30km from the Russian border and 150km east of Helsinki, a deliberate low-profile choice aimed at keeping as many as the international media as possible off the scent.

She won that race in 2min 04.22sec. On Sunday, she faced a more challenging task with three runners in the field having already gone faster than that Thursday time this season.

Semenya was given the green light to run again last week, after a review of gender-verification tests by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

She hopes to take part in two or three races in Europe between the end of August and the start of September to finalise her preparations for the Commonwealth Games in India in October.

**'Pakistan will bounce back'**

ANI, London

Pakistan coach Waqar Younis is confident that his team will bounce back in the second Test match against Australia, starting at Headingley from Wednesday.

Waqar said that a couple of solid innings at Lord's could have changed the course of the series.

"There is a very thin line between win and loss and I still believe that with a bit of better luck and grabbing opportunities we could have nullified 150 runs deficit," The News quoted Waqar, as saying.

"We have got players who can seriously challenge Australia and those who have failed to make their mark in the first Test will hopefully give their best at Headingley," he added.

Waqar further praised the outgoing skipper Shahid Afridi, saying that he took over the captaincy when there was no other suitable option.

"I think he has done his job and filled that gap. He successfully played his role as a captain," he added.

**Day Two**

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Mahela Jayawardene on eight. Rain has been forecast on all five days of the match, which marks the final Test appearance for Sri Lanka's world bowling record holder Muttiah Muralidaran.

The off-spinner needs eight scalps to reach the unprecedented 800-wicket mark, to build on his record haul of 515 one-day wickets. India, the top-ranked Test side, are looking for their first series win in Sri Lanka in 17 years.

There may be a few tweaks, but when people talk about fundamentally bringing in the bulldozer and revamping 50-over cricket, I'm not one of those sceptics at the moment.

"I think sometimes there are too many one-day games in a [bilateral] series. If we are able to structure some sort of league that has got meaning, that allows you to qualify ultimately to the World Cup, that creates a lot more context. Then of course there is the sheer volume of it, and at what times of the year we play it. All of those factors we should look at first before we fundamentally look at altering that format of the game."

The ICC remains confident the 2015 World Cup will be a 50-over competition and it believes that ODIs are still popular, especially on the subcontinent. However, crowds have dropped off for one-day internationals in Australia, where this summer there will be a seven-match series against England following the Ashes, and even the players concede there is room to improve.

"If it could be made better or more interesting for the fans, and more interesting for the players as well, then you've got to look at trying to make things better all the time," Hussey said. "We're open to suggestions but I think we've got to be pretty careful not to try and change too much."

**Lorgat, Hussey don't buy split-innings**



CRICINFO

Cricket Australia (CA) might be keen to foist split-innings one-dayers on the supporters but their own players are not yet convinced the format will work - and neither is the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The chief executive of the ICC, Haroon Lorgat, has said he is not a fan of the concept, while one of Australia's most experienced ODI players, Michael Hussey, is sceptical about the new innovations CA is considering.

The Australian board is looking at a number of options it could trial during its split-innings games in the coming domestic season, including a "super striker", a designated batsman who is able to bat in both innings. The CA chief executive James Sutherland was in London on Sunday to brief the Australian Test players on the ideas, which will be trialed before next year's 50-over World Cup.

Hussey has already professed his love for the traditional one-day format and after hearing CA's plan, little had changed. Despite being a batsman himself, the notion of one player being able to bat twice in a game held no appeal for Hussey, who said the Australian players were still in

favour of the existing ODI format.

"I don't think it is right because one of the great challenges about batting is you get your chance and if you get out first ball you appreciate your wicket so much," Hussey said. "If you know you've got a second chance it doesn't sit right with me."

"It's more for the fans really, more for the entertainment value. If there's someone like a Chris Gayle who obviously draws a lot of people to the game, if he does happen to get out first ball at least some of the population -- certainly not our fielding team -- will be happy that he'd get another chance. But I must admit it doesn't quite sit right with me."

Nor do some of Cricket Australia's ideas appeal to the ICC chief Lorgat, despite the fact that the game's governing body has encouraged national boards to experiment with limited-overs cricket at the domestic level. Instead of a major overhaul of the ODI format, Lorgat would prefer to see fewer meaningless games played, with 50-over games contributing to a team's path to the World Cup.

"I must admit I'm not yet a fan of that," Lorgat told Test Match Special on Friday when asked about split-innings one-dayers. "A lot of people feel that 50-over cricket is under threat. I'm not one of those pessimists."

**Almagro takes Swedish Open**



AFP, Baastad

Spain's Nicolas Almagro came through a tough three-setter to beat top seed and defending champion Robin Soderling in the final of the claycourt ATP Swedish Open on Sunday.

The 24-year-old survived dropping the second set to win 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 in just under two hours. It was his sixth ATP title and his first of 2010.

"It's a great feeling to win here," said Almagro. "It's always amazing to win a final and I'm very happy with the week. I'm going to enjoy this moment and then prepare for next

week in Hamburg." The first set saw the match going with serve until 5-5 when Soderling, the home favourite, came under pressure from the clay court specialist. The Swede saved three break points before giving Almagro the advantage. The Spaniard held to go one set up.

Soderling, though, stepped up his game in the second set to level the match before handing over the advantage again in the third.

The Swede had already beaten the Italian Andreas Seppi and Spaniard David Ferrer in three sets to get to the final but this was a match too far as he dropped his service twice in succession to hand the title to Almagro.

"I didn't play my best tennis," said the disconsolate Swede who in May lost the final of the French Open to Rafael Nadal.

**Aussies on right track**



ANI, London

Australia cricket captain Ricky Ponting is of the view that the bowling performance of all-rounders Marcus North and Shane Watson in the recently concluded Lord's Test against Pakistan highlights the increasing versatility of the squad's bowling attack in the run-up to this year's Ashes series.

Watson claimed five wickets in the first Pakistani innings for about 40 runs, while North chipped in with a match winning six-wicket haul in the second. Pakistan lost the Test by 150 runs on the fourth day.

"Things are coming together nicely. Without being silly, we've all got one eye on stuff that's happening later in the year and these steps this week have been good ones in the right direction as far as keeping on improving our Test cricket," the Sydney Morning Herald quoted Ponting, as saying.

"We've got a few more Tests to play yet, but things are going well for us. The encouraging sign for us is having that depth, so if injuries or form or whatever plays a part, we know we've got

a real good core group of players that are going to lead Australia forward in all forms of the game," Ponting added.

North is the fourth member of Australia's top six to have picked up a five-wicket bag in Test cricket, joining Watson (5-40), Simon Katich and Michael Clarke.

"I certainly don't think that I'm a No.1 spinner or anything like that, but I feel comfortable in the role I can play for Australia," North said.

"I feel that given the ball I can contribute, I'm not just there as a spare part. I feel I can genuinely be a wicket-taking option and complement the other bowlers around me," he added.

With Steve Smith in the line-up, Australia boasts the ultimate in variety in its spinning ranks.

The young New South Welshman bowls leg-spin, North is an off-spinner while Clarke (left-arm finger spinner) and Katich (left-arm wrist spinner) complete the set.

On the quick bowlers, Ponting said they must show more patience in the second and final Test at Headingley, starting Wednesday.

"I really think it was a fact of both those guys really trying too hard knowing the conditions offered quite a bit for the faster bowlers," he said.

**Schleck, Contador play mind games**

REUTERS



The battle for Tour de France victory took a twisted turn at the Ax 3-Domains on Sunday when yellow jersey holder Andy Schleck and defending champion Alberto Contador played mind games on the final climb.

The day's honours in the 184.5km 14th stage went to France's Christophe Riblon, the last survivor of an early breakaway.

But second and third place, 54 seconds behind Riblon, went to Russia's Denis Menchov and Spain's Samuel Sanchez, the two riders most likely to pose a threat to Schleck and Contador for final victory.

Luxembourg's Schleck and twice champion Contador dropped 14 seconds in the finale because neither would lead the way towards the finish line.

"If I have to play poker in the end, I'll play poker. I felt really good today but I could afford to lose time on Menchov and Sanchez. I don't consider them as Tour contenders," Schleck said.

"I did not want to pass Alberto and lose seconds like in the Mende stage," Schleck said, explaining his fear of being attacked by Contador. "I had to play games today."

"I want to win this. I've got to be smart," he added.

First and second in last year's Tour, Contador and Schleck were seen playing hide and seek and almost stopping in the final ascent like sprinters waiting to surge on a cycling track.

"We were content with controlling each other and in the end we decided to work together to limit the damage with Menchov and Sanchez. We could not afford to let them take too much time," Spaniard Contador said.

It remains to be seen whether the pair's approach was the smart one as it might give ideas to their rivals in the next three stages in the Pyrenees.

"The tactic for today was to stay in Contador's wheel but tomorrow will be another day as I need to take more time off him in the future," said Schleck about Monday's 187.5km 15th stage to Bagneres de Luchon, which looks easier on paper.

His 31 seconds edge over Contador appears a little slim ahead of the final 52km individual time trial to Pauillac on the penultimate day of the race.

The bluff had started in the hardest hill of the day, the Port de Pailheres, 30 km from the finish. Contador's Astana teammates led for most of the climb and Schleck went down to his team director's car to pick up bottles and signal he was not impressed by their pace.

Four kilometres from the line, Contador attacked three times to test his rival, but quickly gave up.

**Pedrosa wins German GP**  
*Rossi finishes fourth on return*

INTERNET



Dani Pedrosa won the German MotoGP at the Sachsenring on Sunday while Valentino Rossi just lost out on a podium finish on his return from injury.

Honda rider Pedrosa finished 3.355 seconds ahead of Jorge Lorenzo, cutting his fellow Spaniard's championship lead to 47 points following a 30-lap race that was effectively reduced to 21 laps after Randy de Puniet's crash brought out the red flag.

Reigning champion Rossi, making his return to action just six weeks and four races after breaking his leg in his home race at Mugello, started fifth on the grid -- and maintained beforehand that he would be satisfied to finish in the same position.

However he almost ended his comeback race on the podium before losing his thrilling duel with Casey Stoner on the final corner.

Lorenzo got a good start and regained his lead from pole after being briefly overtaken by Pedrosa.

On lap nine De Puniet, who had his leg X-rayed following his nasty crash in qualifying on Saturday, came off and his bike was hit by Aleix Espargaro. Alvaro Bautista also failed to avoid

the melee. De Puniet's bike had caught fire, causing the red flag to be waved and a 30-minute break in the race.

All three riders were ruled out of it as they failed to get their bikes back to the pits within the designated five-minute window after the red flag was shown. On-site medics reported that De Puniet had fractured his left tibia and fibula.

The main beneficiary of the halt in proceedings was Nicky Hayden, who began the race 15th on the grid but surged his way up to sixth at the time of De Puniet's crash -- and restarted from there.

Once more Pedrosa surged ahead of Lorenzo at the green light, but this time he made his lead stick.

While the issue of first and second was settled long before the end, the battle for third place was an enthralling one. Rossi and Stoner traded places over a dozen times before the chequered flag, and the Australian picked his approach path and moment perfectly going into the final corner to overtake the six-times world champion and move up to fourth in the championship standings.

Andrea Dovizioso, Marco Simoncelli and Hayden finished their own battle in fifth, sixth and seventh respectively, with the former heading into next week's USA Grand Prix at Laguna Seca still third in the table.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

1 "— words were never spoken" 6 Provincial dialect 12 Alter 13 Stir up 14 Harmless 15 Genie's home? 16 Fit of peevishness 17 Squad 19 Marry 20 Trade 22 Noshed 24 Matter-horn, e.g. 27 Low-pH chemical 29 Lean and supple 32 Library aid 35 "Zounds!" 36 European capital 37 "— Pinafore" 38 X creche? 40 Cratching trio

**DOWN**

1 After-ward 2 Hindu royal 5 Vacation-ing 44 Bullring cheers 46 Do as I say 50 1998 medical breakthrough 52 Hors d'oeuvre 54 If not full agreement 56 Brawls 57 Bags

**3 Condos, e.g.** 4 Oocyte 5 Hertz transaction 6 Sun-screen additive 7 Scent 8 Youngster 9 Be more important than 10 Capri, e.g. 11 Progeny 12 Ed Sullivan's network 18 Embodiment 21 Service-woman 23 Pair

**24 Expert the pack** 26 Humiliating blunder 28 Capital of Syria 30 Pirates' quaff 31 "Certainly" 33 A.E.S. opponent 34 Journey segment 39 Vinland pioneers 41 Column style 42 See 4-Down 43 Suitable 45 Young woman 47 Soak up some rays 48 Long narrative work 49 Longing 51 "Goshi!" 53 Literary collection

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

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 FXJ IVXE UGVOE GXOE,  
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**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SOME TRIGONOMETRY TEACHERS ARE HAVING A TALK OVER THERE. I THINK THEY'RE USING SINE LANGUAGE.**  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals S