

Carvalho set to rejoin Mourinho

Chelsea's Portuguese defender Ricardo Carvalho is set to sign a two-year deal with Real Madrid, the Spanish club said on Wednesday. The English Premier League champions earlier confirmed they have agreed a fee with Real Madrid for the sale of the 32-year-old Portuguese defender. Carvalho will join compatriot Jose Mourinho, his manager at both Porto and Chelsea, at Spanish giants Real, having won the Champions League with Porto in 2004 when Mourinho coached the club.

- AFP



Revamped Brazil cruise

Football

AFP, East Rutherford

Neymar scored in his Brazil debut and Alexandre Pato added a goal as a revamped Brazil beat the USA 2-0 Tuesday in the first match for both countries since the World Cup.

Neymar, the 18-year-old Santos phenomenon, had just switched with Robinho and moved from the left flank to the centre.

Andre Santos came down the left side and crossed, and Neymar beat Jonathan Bornstein and sent a header inside US keeper Tim Howard's left post in the 28th minute.

Pato added a second goal in first-half injury time when a ball from Ramires' split Bornstein and Carlos Bocanegra, and the 20-year-old AC Milan forward came in alone on Howard for the goal.

Both of Brazil's scorers overlooked by Dunga for his World Cup squad despite public outcry for their selection in Brazil.

Dunga was sacked in the wake of Brazil's 2-1 quarterfinal loss to the Netherlands last month and replaced by Mano Menezes, who promised to restore "The Beautiful Game" as Brazil begins the build-up to hosting the 2014 World Cup.

The friendly attracted a near sell-out crowd of 77,223 to the New Meadowlands Stadium.

Brazil's young, quick players showed flashes of the deft game that Brazil abandoned for conservatism in South Africa, the youngsters from South America out-playing the US veterans.

Both teams had a goal called off. Pato headed the ball into the goal in the 32nd minute but cashed into Howard. Michael Bradley was ruled offside after beating goalkeeper Victor on a header in the 57th off a cross from Sacha Kljestan following Landon Donovan's corner kick.

Ganso, Victor and defender David Luiz also made their international debuts for Brazil, along with substitutes Andre, Ederson and Juceleir.

Robinho, one of four holdovers from the World Cup campaign, SEE PAGE 18 COL 1



Brazil striker Alexandre Pato (L) runs past United States goalkeeper Tim Howard to score the second goal during their international friendly at the New Meadowlands Stadium in New Jersey on Tuesday.

BFF aiming for Croatian coach

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation is likely to choose a Croatian coach after the departure of Serbian coach Zoran Djordjevic as the football governing body has already accepted the financial package of Croatian Robert Rusche.

BFF vice president Badal Roy, also chairman of the national team management committee, said the conversation with regards to terms and conditions with Robert had been on-going though a medium and they had accepted a financial package of US\$ 55,000 for a year.

"We expect him in Dhaka in between August 20 to 30 so that he can get an overall idea of our football as well as players during the training camp at BKSP," said Roy adding that nothing had been finalized yet.

He informed that the UEFA-pro license holder has about 10 years of coaching experience, which has proved to be the most attractive part of his CV.

The former national footballer also said that this time they plan to provide the coaching staff after discussing it with the new coach.

Badal said they would seek financial help from the Bangladesh Olympic Association to meet the financial package of the new coach.

India tested & fail

Cricket

CRICINFO

Every now and then the Indian batting is tested in difficult one-day conditions, and they usually tend to come up short, though not as spectacularly as against New Zealand in the opening match of the tri-series on Tuesday. Last year, they batted first on a damp pitch in Guwahati and were sliced to 27 for 5 by Mitchell Johnson and Doug Bollinger before Praveen Kumar and Ravindra Jadeja partially revived India with half-centuries. There was no lower-order rescue on Monday, and India slid to the lowest total in ODIs this year.

There wasn't the exaggerated movement which worked so well for India in the Asia Cup final, but the bounce and slowness of the track proved too much. MS Dhoni explained that while the pacy short ball has troubled some of the Indian batsmen, it was not what they were up against in Dambulla.

"This is completely different bounce, it is very spongy, bowlers are bowling 125-126 and the keeper is standing where he usually does for Shoaib Akhtar," Dhoni said. "You can't really drive off the backfoot, the only option is to cut and pull, and if the bowler doesn't give room, it is very difficult to score."

There were no magic deliveries from New

Zealand to warrant such a limp display. All Daryl Tuffey and Kyle Mills did was keep the ball a touch short and maintain tight lines, which was enough to coax India's batsmen to give the New Zealand slip cordon a thorough workout. Rohit Sharma opened the face to steer to slip, Suresh Raina attempted a cover drive away from his body to edge to slip, Yuvraj Singh fished outside off to nick it to slip.

"Players in the subcontinent generally don't like the ball anywhere above the waist," Scott Styris said. "Not because they are scared but because it is different compared to the usual subcontinental wicket. This has lot more bounce and we learnt that during the practice sessions. We really wanted to put some short balls in there."

Styris had played a big role in New Zealand recovering from a top-order collapse, his 190-run partnership with Ross Taylor effectively putting the match beyond India. Dhoni was unhappy about the mistakes in the field that allowed New Zealand to reach such a commanding total. "There were a couple of missed chances, Styris missed stumping [when he was on 16], Ross Taylor's dropped catch [on 45 by Suresh Raina], still if we had got both of them they still would have got at least 200 which the way they bowled would have been very difficult to chase."

New Zealand packed their side with quick

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Jalil ignored for Asian Games

SPORTS REPORTER

Experienced coach Abdul Jalil was excluded when Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation announced two preliminary squads for the upcoming Asian Games in Guangzhou, China in November.

Ziaur Rahman, country's best raider who missed the SA Games due to knee injury, was also not considered for the 18-member squad. Abdul Haq will replace Jalil, who coached the Bangladesh squad in the South Asian Games that finished third. However, the federation retained the services of Abdul Hakim, who helped the women's side finish behind champions India.

On the issue of Jalil's exclusion, general secretary Monir Hossain said they wanted to try a new coach in stead of Jalil who coached for a long period. Monir however refused to comment on Zia, who declared himself fit for the game.

Remove Butt: Pak MP

Cricket

CRICINFO

Iqbal Mohammad Ali, a leading Pakistani parliamentarian, has appealed to the country's President and patron of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Asif Ali Zardari, to remove chairman of the cricket board Ijaz Butt, who he felt was responsible for the continued deterioration of the national side.

In a scathing two-page letter written to the President, Ali argues that Butt's administration has seen the team reduced to the status of "minnows".

The last year has been a particularly torrid one for Pakistan, their win in the ICC World Twenty20 last year followed by a disastrous tour of Australia. Several senior players were either fined or banned by the PCB in the aftermath of that tour, though most of the punishments were overturned soon after. Currently, after beating Australia in the Headingley Test in their ongoing tour of England, they capitulated to scores of 80 and 72 in their two Tests against England which they lost comprehensively.

"The chairman and his close aides have shoddily let down your confidence in them by making a mockery of management ethics at the board," wrote Ali, who also heads the

national assembly's standing committee on sports. The standing committees of the upper and lower houses cannot take direct action against any organization, but they can pass on suggestions to the government.

"It is therefore recommended that a very dynamic and energetic administrator be made the chairman of the board so that the affairs of cricket in Pakistan are run professionally. (The) incompetence of Mr. Ijaz Butt has already brought enough shame for our country at international level."

Former players like Aamer Sohail, Abdul Qadir and Iqbal Qasim held senior positions in the PCB but resigned and Ali blamed Butt for their departure. He said they quit "due to egocentric and autocratic attitude of Mr. Ijaz Butt."

The board has also seen through five different Test captains in just over a year -- Shoaib Malik, Younus Khan, Mohammed Yousuf, Shahid Afridi and Salman Butt -- and Ali said Butt and the management were responsible for such a "comedy of errors."

Ali also alleged that the present team manager Yawar Saeed, whom he said was close to Butt, was supporting certain "groups of players in the team which is destroying the unity." However, he didn't elaborate on the players involved.

Butt took over as chairman from Nasim Ashraf in October 2008.

Sheikh Jamal gets Serbian duo

SPORTS REPORTER

Serbian coaches Zoran Kraljedic and Berber Dabor are all set to join newcomers Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club for the upcoming football season, revealed a club official yesterday.

Manzur Kader, president of Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, said they have confirmed the services of Kraljedic and Dabor, the duo who had worked as assistants of Bangladesh's former Serbian coach Zoran Djordjevic.

The surprise-package of the season had earlier tried to rope in local coach Saiful Bari Titu, who had refused to take charge due to his involvement with the Bangladesh Football Federation.

Sheikh Jamal were then forced to change their decision and rope in foreign coaches.

Of two Serbian coaches, the

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Former track star found dead

AFP, Chapel Hill

Antonio Pettigrew, who was stripped of a 2000 Olympic 4x400m relay gold medal for doping, has been found dead at the age of 42, University of North Carolina officials said Tuesday.

There was no word on the exact time or possible cause of death for Pettigrew, whose body was discovered on Tuesday according to a spokesman for the university, where Pettigrew was an assistant athletics coach.

Pettigrew, who won the 1991 400 metres world title in Tokyo, was a member of the 4x400 metres American relay team that won the gold medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

But the International Olympic Committee (IOC) stripped Pettigrew and his teammates -- including legend Michael Johnson -- of their medals after he admitted, during a trial against former coach Trevor Graham, to doping.

In a statement, North Carolina athletics director Dick Baddour said the school was "deeply saddened" to learn of Pettigrew's death.



Maria Sharapova of Russia sends a kiss after winning against compatriot Svetlana Kuznetsova in the Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open in Cincinnati on Tuesday.

Maria beats Svetlana

Tennis

AFP, Cincinnati

Maria Sharapova survived a second-set lapse and delivered a dominant third set to beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the Cincinnati Women's Open.

While Kuznetsova's triumph in San Diego on Sunday pushed her ranking to 14, one higher than Sharapova, her fellow Russian had a 31-11 edge in winners to overcome 39 unforced errors to win in her Cincinnati debut.

Sharapova reached the second round, while top seed and defending champion Jelena Jankovic of Serbia followed her on court and booked a third-round berth with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Russian Vera Dushevina.

Kuznetsova received treatment from a trainer on her back and left knee, and left the court briefly after three games of the third set for treatment.

She was unable to convert eight of her 10 break point opportunities.

"It's definitely tough to have a night flight then come and play the day after a final, but it's just bad luck, I cannot change it," Kuznetsova said. "I just need to get my ranking higher and then I can get a bye. But I also have to give a lot of credit to Maria. She played really well in the third."

Sharapova said she didn't press hard enough once she had pocketed the opening set.

"I let her off the hook in the beginning of the second set, and she went with it. Against a player with a lot of experience, you can't do that," Sharapova said. "I had to earn it. The only way I was going to win was by being aggressive."

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SPORTS POLL

Do the Tigers need a bowling coach?

Yes 86.3%

No 13.7%

TOTAL VOTES: 539

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do you think Bangladesh is prepared for the cricket World Cup in 2011?

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