

Afghanistan crush Scots

AFP, Scotland
Afghanistan went to the top of the ICC Intercontinental Cup table with a resounding 229-run victory over Scotland on Saturday.

Pace bowler Hamid Hassan took five wickets for 114 runs as Scotland, set an improbable target of 546, were bowled out for 316 in their second innings on the fourth and final day.

Scotland were struggling in this match after making just 139, with Hassan taking six for 40, in reply to Afghanistan's first innings 435.

Ewan Chalmers made 67 in Scotland's second innings -- their best individual score of the match -- but that was as nothing compared to Afghanistan hundreds from Samiullah Shenwari and Mohammad Shahzad.

Rach

FROM PAGE 17
players this time to play in Germany only after the coach settled has accommodation, food, and salaries of the players.

"I will only permit the players to play in Germany if the coach assures me all things in written," Jamil said, "However, the players may go at their own risk and in that case I will not take any responsibility if they are not given promised money."

Anvir Adil quoted Gerhard as saying that the players would maintain the schedules provided by the coach at the club level during their stay in Germany.

"Of 18 players, as many as 10 will play in a team and all of them will gather at a place for practice when there will be no game of the league."

Hazra said that Gerhard told them he needed money to arrange practice matches outside Germany and that the federation would consider his demand.

The selection committee also picked a 29-member preliminary squad that will start the training for the Asiad from today.

SQUAD
Jahid Hossain, Manwar Hossain Russel, Moshir Rahman Biplob, Mamunur Rahman Chayan, Imran Hasan Pintu, Tapash Barman, Rasel Mahmud Jimmy, Enamul Kabir Turjo, Sheikh Mohammad Nannu, Hasan Jubair Niloy, Qumruzzaman Rana, Pushkor Khisa Mimo, Krishna Kumar, Maksudul Alam Habul, Iqbal Nader Prince, Moshir Rahman Biplob, Hosne Mubarak Sumon, Shamsul Alam Sujan, Imran Ahmed Riaz, Abdul Sajjad John, Rafiqul Islam, Al Masum, Mosharaf Hossain Kutub, Zahid Bin Talib Shuvo, Rimon Kumar Gosh, Zahidul Islam Rajon, Ashiquzzaman and Golam Mostafa Manik.

Kim-Maria

FROM PAGE 17
hobbled to the net where Clijsters embraced her and advancing to her third final of the year.

"I tried bit of tape, but I could not put any weight on it and there was no point in me continuing," Ivanovic said.

Ivanovic, ranked 62nd, struggled with a right shoulder injury earlier this year and was in only her third semifinal of the year, having yet to reach a final.

"I played some really great tennis and I was very excited about this match," Ivanovic said.

Clijsters made her return to tennis last year at Cincinnati after a two-year layoff to have a family and went on to lift the US Open trophy.

This year she missed nearly two months after a left foot injury that kept her out of the French Open.

"It sounds very similar to what I had with my left foot," Clijsters said of Ivanovic's injury. "I hope it's not that bad."

Clijsters, ranked seventh, ran for half an hour after the abbreviated match and practiced to keep her form.

Dhoni

FROM PAGE 17
bowlers, did not have an injury concern and would be fit to play on Monday.

Sri Lanka Cricket's national curator Anuruddha Polonowita, however, said there was nothing wrong with the facilities. "I don't understand what kind of wickets they [India] want," he said.

"The other day, on a beauty of a wicket, they were bowled out for 88. Now, they don't want to play on the practice wickets."

India lost their opening game of the tournament by 200 runs to New Zealand and are scheduled to take on the hosts on Monday.



Scott Andy Murray celebrates match point against number one seed Rafael Nadal of Spain in the semifinal of the Rogers Cup at the Rexall Centre in Toronto on Saturday.

Murray ousts Nadal, Federer Djokovic



AFP, Toronto

Roger Federer will return to world number two after reaching the ATP Toronto Masters final by dodging a bullet for the second night in a row, beating Novak Djokovic 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 on Saturday.

The dramatic victory sets up a final against fourth-seeded Scot Andy Murray, who put out Spanish world number one Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-4.

The final of the 2.4 million-dollar hardcourt event will be a re-run of the Australian Open final won by the Swiss star last January for his lone trophy of 2010.

Federer's Toronto thriller, which took just under two and a half hours, could have gone either way despite a rollicking start from the 16-time Grand Slam champion, who raced away with the opening set in 25 minutes.

But Serbia's Djokovic steadied to find his rhythm in the second set, earning back a break and going ahead 5-3 with a break of two-time Canadian titleholder Federer.

Djokovic eventually levelled on a set each but Federer again took charge in the third, grabbing a 4-1 lead only to see it eaten away as his first-serving percentage fell and Djokovic dominated in long rallies.

Djokovic clawed back a break in the seventh game for 3-4 and levelled at 5-all.

Federer made his second great escape in 24 hours, after beating Tomas Berdych in the quarterfinals, and broke in the final game from a Djokovic forehand that sailed long.

"It was like yesterday's match. I came out with all guns blazing in the first set," Federer said. "But Novak raised his game and played super-competitive."

"I had the lead in the third set but had to fight in some long rallies. He made it really tough for me. He fought bravely. I'm very happy to be back in the final."

"I wasn't tired at the end and he was looking a bit fatigued. But I know what Novak can do. I came out on the better end tonight and I'm happy."

Federer, now 10-5 in the series against Djokovic, won his squeaker with 11 aces and five breaks of serve while losing his own three times.

"I had a slow start and didn't find my rhythm for the first half hour," said disappointed

Djokovic. "I knew Roger would put pressure from the start."

"It was not the best performance from me. Realistically he was the better player. I had too many unforced errors form the backhand. You cannot do that against a player like him. I missed a good chance to go to the final."

Murray's victory lifted him to 4-8 against Nadal after beating the Spaniard at the Australian Open earlier this year but losing to him in a Wimbledon semifinal last month.

"This is a surface I'm most comfortable on," Murray said of the hardcourt as he beat Nadal on the surface for the fourth time in five meetings.

"I enjoy playing aggressive especially against the best players. I want to enjoy playing my game and expressing myself out on court. You never expect to beat the other top players. The margins are so thin."

"I go on court knowing that I have to play my best if I'm going to have a chance of beating them. I like playing Rafa on a hardcourt."

The world number four is searching for his first title of the season after going down to Federer in the Melbourne final and missing his chance for a trophy a fortnight ago against Sam Querrey in the Los Angeles final.

The Scot stands 29-11 on the season and is nine months removed from the last of the six titles he earned in 2009, his November success indoors in Valencia.

Nadal, reigning Roland Garros and Wimbledon champion, lost for only the sixth time this season.

"Overall I'm feeling good. I've won 34 of my last 36 matches and have played well all season," Nadal said.

"It's not a bad start for the hardcourt season. I had chances for the final and I'm not so far off my game. I just need to produce more chances to win."

Murray served two aces in the fifth game of the opening set and broke in the eighth.

He set up set points in a game of three aces, converting on his second winning opportunity from Nadal's error.

Murray won 14 of the last 19 points and fired eight aces as he staked his claim on the victory, his fifth over a world number one.

"Something was not right with my serve," Nadal said. "Andy was playing better than me. My serve was the worst thing about my game today. The rest of it is fine."

Hants take T20 crown



AFP, Southampton

Hampshire were crowned English county cricket's Twenty20 champions on their Rose Bowl home ground after a last ball win over Somerset on Saturday.

But their tense victory was almost scuppered by Australian Dan Christian's ignorance of the Laws of Cricket.

Hampshire needed one run off the final delivery to beat Somerset on fewer wickets lost. Christian had called for a runner after pulling a hamstring off the penultimate ball.

But off Zander de Bruyn's last delivery, Christian set off for a leg-by single as Somerset appealed for lbw.

Jimmy Adams, the runner, scampered through and non-striker Sean Ervine made it safely to the other end.

But Somerset would have won if the ball had been thrown to wicketkeeper Craig Kieswetter as Christian, despite getting to the bowler's end, could have been run out as he was technically out of his ground.

not out -- although he was dropped late in his innings by substitute Nick Compton -- helped see Hampshire home.

McKenzie, who faced 39 balls, with a six and three fours, told Sky Sports: "There was a lot of chaos out there, I think I caused it towards the end."

"It was really nerve-wracking in the dug-out, there's always a twist."

Veteran Hampshire captain Dominic Cork played a key role.

He took two wickets for three runs in a last over which also ended the involvement of Somerset all-rounder Kieron Pollard, after a bouncer crept through the grille of the batsman's helmet.

Pollard was later taken to hospital having suffered an eye injury.

Teenage left-arm spinner Danny Briggs took one for 30 in a Somerset innings where England World Twenty20-winner Kieswetter made 71.

Maradona

FROM PAGE 17
"Diego is currently talking with a number of clubs in Europe including another one in England about a management role and is looking at his options carefully."

Maradona has had a chequered football career. Regarded as one of the all-time great players alongside Pele, he suffered from alcohol and drug problems later -- culminating in him being thrown out of the 1994 World Cup in the USA.

He struggled in a few coaching posts before emerging from a stomach-stapling operation in 2007 slimmer and healthier than he had been for years.

He then just managed to qualify for the World Cup in South Africa, before surprising many with his team's flamboyant and goal-happy performances at the finals.

MSC

FROM PAGE 17
Mohammedan had taken the initiative to rebuild their tent after three-time Bangladesh League champions Abahani, new powerhouse Sheikh Russel KC and the two aforementioned clubs completed their squads and the Motijheel-based outfit confirmed 17 to 18 players, most of them unknown in the professional football league.

"In the meeting, the list of 17-18 players were shown asking the meeting that those players are the best available at the moment and some of us were advised to try to rope in star players as the players transfer window has yet to be opened," said football committee chairman MASalam.

Salam, however, said their focus would be on recruiting quality foreign players, who would be able to make the difference in the outcome of each game.

Former players like Imtiaz Sultan Jony, Shafiqul Islam Manik, Riaz, Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, Jewel Rana, football manager Amirul Islam Babu and football committee chairman MA Salam responded to Abdus Salam Murshedi who called on them for an unofficial discussion.

Asked how they would manage money as the club has also gone through financial crisis last season, Salam put up a brave face.

"We are still with the club. The meeting discussed the financial issue and I think money will not be problem for the club for the upcoming season," he said.

BFF observes

FROM PAGE 17
Anwarul Haq Helal, Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu and Fazlur Rahman Babul and Sheikh Jamal Dhanmodi Club president Manzur Moshed were also present on the occasion.

Yuvraj

FROM PAGE 17
Dhoni said Dinesh Karthik, who had got struck on the hand while batting on an underprepared practice pitch, was fit and likely to play. The sidelining of Yuvraj and Nehra's possible unavailability are major setbacks to the team, which is already missing first-choice players such as Sachin Tendulkar, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan and Gautam Gambhir.

India conceded a bonus point during their 200-run defeat in the opening game of the tri-series and are presently bottom of the table.

England unchanged



AFP, London

England named the same XI on Sunday that had put them 2-0 up in their four-match series against Pakistan for the third Test starting at The Oval on Wednesday.

Tim Bresnan, left out from a 12-man squad in the sides that won the first Test at Trent Bridge by 354 runs and the second Test by nine wickets at Edgbaston last week, was retained as bowling cover.

The seamer will play for Yorkshire in their Championship clash against champions Durham starting at Chester-le-Street on Monday.

He will join the England team on Tuesday before returning to play for Yorkshire on Wednesday, provided he is not required for Test duty.

This is England's last Test series before they begin the defence of the Ashes in Australia starting in November and national selector Geoff Miller said: "We were delighted with the way the team performed at Edgbaston in the second Test."

"To put together dominant performances in back-to-back Test matches is a credit to the team's hard work, but the key remains consistency throughout the duration of the series."

Former England off-spinner Miller added: "Tim Bresnan hasn't been named in the squad but will provide bowling cover just prior to the

Test before returning to play for Yorkshire in their County Championship match against Durham."

Pakistan suffered a setback on Saturday when it was announced that wicketkeeper-batsman Zulqarnain Haider who made 80 on Test debut at Edgbaston, was doubtful for The Oval after suffering a finger injury.

Saturday also saw the second day of their two-day match against Worcestershire washed out completely.

But the third Test should see the return to the side of former captain and senior batsman Mohammad Yousuf, who made an unbeaten 40 against Worcestershire.

He was recalled ahead of the defeat at Edgbaston but was not selected after only arriving in England the day before the match.

Third in Pakistan's all-time list of Test run-scorers, Yousuf was initially omitted from the squad having been handed an indefinite ban by the Pakistan Cricket Board after captaining the side on their winless tour of Australia concluded earlier this year. Yousuf has scored 7,431 runs at 53.07 including 12 hundreds in 88 Tests and against England has an average of 70.

Pakistan badly need more runs after being bowled out for record low scores against England of 80 and 72 at Trent Bridge and Edgbaston respectively.

ENGLAND
Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Eoin Morgan, Matt Prior, Graeme Swann, Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Steven Finn.

Yousuf not match-fit



AFP, Worcester

Pakistan batsman Mohammad Yousuf has admitted he is far from being match-fit for next week's third Test against England at The Oval.

The former Pakistan captain was unable to add to his overnight 40 as rain washed out the second and final day of the tourists' match against Worcestershire at New Road on Saturday.

And the 35-year-old admitted he would have dearly loved more time in the middle, telling a Pakistani website: "I would have wanted some valuable time in the middle today."

"To get some practice and also it would have boosted my match fitness. However it wasn't meant to be and there's nothing I can do about it."

"The fitness levels you maintain when playing first class cricket are entirely different to the levels of fitness you maintain when playing a few local club matches as I was in Lahore before arriving in England."

"I am not entirely Test match-fit, but I will utilise my experience as my country needs me."

Pakistan are 2-0 down in the four-Test series following crushing defeats at Trent Bridge and Edgbaston where they were bowled out for

record low scores against England of 80 and 72 respectively.

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Now, barring injury, he seems set to be recalled at The Oval, which has a reputation as one of the best batting surfaces in England although much may depend on the overhead conditions the hosts' swing bowlers have exploited so successfully in the first two Tests.

"I'll do my best and will help and guide the younger players," said Yousuf. "Let's see what the track is like at the Oval and I hope that we can bounce back and get back into the series."

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Lorenzo's lucky 7th

AFP, Brno



Spanish rider Jorge Lorenzo recorded his seventh MotoGP victory of the season here on Sunday riding his Yamaha to glory in the Czech Grand Prix.

The 23-year-old, who in an unusual celebration got off his bike and walked on to a neighbouring golf course to take a putt which he needed two to hole, beat home compatriot and pole sitter Dani Pedrosa on a Honda while Australia's former world champion Casey Stoner was third.

Lorenzo took the lead from pole sitter Pedrosa on the first of the 22 laps as five riders battled for the top three in the opening exchanges including Stoner while nine-time champion Valentino Rossi was adrift in eighth.

Italian Andrea Dovizioso was the first of the front five to crack as he came to grief in the middle of the track on the fourth lap and was extremely fortunate not to suffer a serious injury by being hit by one of the oncoming bikes.

The Repsol rider -- winner this season of the British MotoGP -- resumed the race but tailed off in last place and eventually gave up the ghost and pulled into his stable.

"I don't know exactly what happened," said the 24-year-old Italian, who was 125cc world champion in 2004.

"There was a lot of wind so that explains the slower times out there. I made one mistake as I really pushed hard at the beginning to keep in touch with Lorenzo and Pedrosa."

"However, I am really angry because the way the race has panned out I think we would have been really challenging for second or third place."

Both Lorenzo and his compatriot Pedrosa slowly started to open a gap on third placed American rookie Ben Spies and Stoner, who was also cast adrift by the young American.

The Spanish duo had a lead of over four seconds over Spies and Stoner while that pair had a sizeable lead over a group including fifth placed Rossi, who was some nine seconds adrift along with Nicky Hayden with 12 laps to go.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Exemplar of beauty and grace
5 Greet
9 Pi follower
12 Cheese choice
13 Formerly
14 Dine on
15 Answered
17 - Lanka
18 Empty suitcase
19 Yawns
21 Tag player
22 Old manuscript marks
24 Ironside portrayer
27 PETA target
28 List-ending abbr.
31 Sugar suffix
32 Schedule abbr.
33 Comic Phillips
34 Nasty stinger
36 Early bird?
37 Catch sight of
38 Green sauce
40 Either partner
41 Pertaining to a pelvic bone
43 Discomfort
47 Journey segment
48 Admired
51 - -di-dah
52 Dunkable sweet
53 "The Wind in the Willows" character
54 Enjoy Aspen
55 Sunrise
56 Agile
DOWN
1 Llama territory
2 Paradise
3 Grate
4 Damage
5 Gander's comment
6 Moreover
7 Lemieux milieu
8 Shelf
9 Breaks
10 Grown-up leveret
11 Elevator man
16 Autumn mo.
20 Hearty brew
22 Expenditure
23 Put your feat in your mouth?
24 Acknowledge applause
25 G8 member
26 "Fountains of Rome" composer
27 Metrical measures
29 Roadie's burden
30 Powell co-star
35 Pod occupant
37 Puts up
39 Seafood selection
40 Indivisible
41 Troubles
42 Plumbing problem
43 Fairy tale preposition
44 On
45 Burn something
46 Vortex
49 Mound stat
50 Wild a needle

Solution time: 25 mins.
G A L A F A D U R A L
I R O N E R R N I C E
N I C K N A M E E C H O
S A I L O R S H A K E N
E L F S I R S
A M P L U G E T H E L
B O I L L O B H A R E
C O C O A O O H W A D
K A N T R O C
M A F F I A S O U S E S
A L L O E K I C K B A C K
C A R R E T H A G R A
K I D S S A T N E U T

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-56.

CRYPTOQUIP

ADUM - NCFDQNRNCW LDURZZC
DCNGDJ RFDR UIDJJS JNMIE
LIURDNC LKJRKUIB GNJM
AUZBKLE: SZWKUR QIDU.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE TWO BEST BUDDIES SAT BESIDE EACH OTHER IN THE BAR, I WOULD CONSIDER THEM STOOLMATES.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals T