



Australia's Fiona Johnson (L) battles for the ball with Japan's Yuri Nagai during their World Cup hockey Group A match in Rosario, Argentina on Monday.

PHOTO: AFP

South Korea stun China

Hockey

AFP, Rosario

Eleventh-ranked South Korea stunned third-ranked China 2-1 and reigning champion Argentina beat 13th-ranked South Africa 5-2 on Sunday in the women's field hockey World Cup.

England edged Spain 3-2 in the day's other Pool B match but the first shocker of the event came at China's expense.

China's Zhao Yudiao completed a neat exchange of passes with Gao Lihua in the circle, scoring the first goal of the tournament, followed by Korea's Kim Young Ran's equaliser in the first half.

After Park Mi Hyun cut through the left to score Korea's winning goal, China struggled to find an equaliser in the last five minutes.

Despite the upset victory, Korea coach and former Korea men's captain Kang Keon Wook is not over confident about Korea's prospects in the tournament.

"It is too soon to be thinking about medals," Kang said.

China coach Kim Sang Ryl conceded China did not play well.

"We should give credit to the skill of Park's goal for Korea but my defenders

were watching her like spectators in the stands and not doing their job," Kim said.

Second-ranked host Argentina dominated South Africa early, displaying the speed with the ball and stickwork expected of the Champions Trophy holders.

Noel Barrionuevo converted Argentina's second penalty corner chance but Argentina dropped off the pace, allowing South Africa to be competitive in the midfield and hold their own in defence.

Argentina's partisan fans were silenced by Pietie Coetzee's bullet penalty corner equaliser and South Africa thwarted Argentina's attack until the break.

Two goals by Luciana Aymar in the five minutes after the break brought the crowd to their feet but again Argentina dropped their intensity until the last 10 minutes when Aymar made her third goal and Marine Russo added another.

Vida Ryan showed that no team can underestimate South Africa, surprising Argentina's defence with a free hit outside the circle, carrying to the top of the circle to drive into the top of the net for South Africa's second goal.

"There is no doubt that Argentina is the best team here by virtue of their experience but we also have to do better by taking our opportunities to score when they come," South Africa coach Giles Bonnetsaid.

Carlos Retegui praised Argentina skipper and six-times International Player of the Year Luciana Aymar.

"She played fantastically well and there are few players who can score three goals in a game," Retegui said.

England was startled from complacency by Gloria Comerma's drive conversion of Spain's first penalty corner early in the first half.

Alex Danson scored the first equaliser followed by 20 minutes of close marking by Spain on England which upset England's tempo and tempers.

England's Alex Danson and Spain's Silvia Bonastre were penalised and when England earned a penalty corner in Bonastre's absence, Crista Cullen scored inside the left post with a powerful flick.

Charlotte Craddock set up England's 3-2 go-ahead goal in the last minute before the break, bursting through Spain's defence in the middle of the pitch and pass to Susie Gilbert to set up the goal.

Spain threw everything at England in the last 10 minutes of the scoreless second half but failed to win the equaliser.

In Pool A on Monday, Netherlands meet India, Germany play New Zealand and Australia face Japan.

AB top ODI batsman

CRICINFO

South African batsman AB de Villiers has displaced India captain MS Dhoni as the top ODI batsman according to the latest ICC ratings. de Villiers, who averages 43.56 in 101 ODIs, had a prolific season that took him to 805 points in the ratings, nine clear of Dhoni. Michael Hussey, the Australian batsman, was third on the list with 792 points.

de Villiers amassed 667 runs in his last 10 ODIs, which included four centuries and two fifties against top opposition. Three of those centuries came in consecutive games, in Gwalior, Ahmedabad and Antigua. Though de Villiers did not play in August, Dhoni's patchy form in the Sri Lanka triangular series, where he scored only 140 runs in five outings, led to the swap at the top.

Trio has to

Dependent on what decision is taken and when, one solution could be to call on discarded players from the Test squad who might still be in the UK. Imran Farhat and the 18-year old left arm-spinner Raza Hasan are still in the country. Shoaib Malik has left for the US. Yasir Hameed and fast bowler Tanvir Ahmed were released from official duty on Monday and did not travel to Taunton with the squad. It is currently unclear whether they are still in London.

The extra wicketkeeper in the Test squad, Zulqarnain Haider, was sent back before the third Test at The Oval, having sustained a finger injury on debut in the previous Test. Danish Kaneria was released from the Test squad early in the England series and though he remains with Essex, he has not been a part of Pakistan's limited-overs set-up since 2007. In any case, he is currently on bail pending further inquiries in a separate spot-fixing investigation at Essex. The bail period ends on September 15, three days after the second ODI between England and Pakistan at Headingley.

UK boss's apprehension

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a lead among sporting governing bodies in attempting to police corruption its own issues, but added that more effort clearly needed to be put into the education of its young players, particularly in light of Aamer's alleged involvement in the Lord's furore.

"I think one of the great sadnesses of all of this, and it's a widely held view, is that a great young talent like Aamer has been implicated in this one," said Parry. "I think that's what perhaps separates this from many other cases, because it suggests that the bad guys got to him before the good guys did. One of the fundamental recommendations of our panel, along with disciplinary measures and sanctions, is that it's absolutely fundamental to have education processes in place, so that players and participants are taught from a very, very young age, first of all that the rules mean, so that there can be no excuses, and secondly that they are vulnerable to outside influences."

"To be fair to cricket, at ICC level they have taken very

significant steps," he added. "They were one of the first sports to set up a proper integrity unit, in the wake of previous major issues such as Hansie Cronje scandal, so I don't think it can be said that the cricket authorities have done nothing. But in terms of educating the players, it could be that they've not done enough. It would have to be a shock that a talent that has broken onto the scene so very, very quickly is at the centre of all this. He'd have been enrolled in a cricket academy from a young age, and from the moment he shot to prominence with the international squad, you'd think that the Pakistan Cricket Board might have recognised a vulnerability and a need to put an arm around him. I can't imagine it would have been that difficult to do, because when you read of the sums involved in betting in the Far East -- with up to 500 million dollars on a single game -- the temptation is potentially there for relatively lowly paid cricketers. It's beholden upon the authorities to step in and provide appropriate support systems."

Kim, Venus get

FROM PAGE 17

There was a reasonably comfortable winning start for top American hope Venus Williams.

But there were signs in her 6-4, 6-1 defeat of Italy's Roberta Vinci that the 30-year-old third seed, who carries US hopes with sister Serena out injured, is still feeling some pain from the left knee injury that has sidelined her since Wimbledon.

"I was doing pretty good until I landed on my leg on a swing volley," she said.

"She didn't make a lot of errors so I was very happy to get through after not playing forever."

"I have a lot of shoes to fill with just one Williams here."

Surprise French Open champion Schiavone coasted past Japan's Ayumi Morita 6-1, 6-0 in just 58 minutes.

The 30-year-old Italian played the tennis of her lifetime to win in Paris in June, but since then she has struggled to reproduce that kind of form

and intensity.

That was only normal, she insisted.

"When you try to reach in the top of the mountain, then you can't go more up. So you have to go down and come back up again," Schiavonesaid.

"I think I am doing this one. And when it's time to come back up again, I will do it. I'm working to do it."

Stosur, who has been struggling with a right arm injury, dropped the first set against Russia's Elena Vesnina before finding her best form at last in a second-set tie-break and then powering away in the decider.

"To get through the first round of a tournament that you've never really done great in is pretty pleasing. I got better and better as the match moved on," she said.

"I felt good going into the tie-break as I felt I was playing better than I sort of rolled through the third."

Among others to go

I am dropped, tweets Kevin

CRICINFO

Kevin Pietersen has announced via Twitter that he has been dropped from England's squad for the Twenty20 and one-day internationals against Pakistan, and has hit out at the Pakistan while adding he has signed with Surrey.

"Done for rest of summer! Man of the World Cup T20 and dropped from the T20 side too. It's a ... up!!," Pietersen posted on his account kevinpp24, before deleting it minutes later, but not before it had been picked up by several users and circulated around the internet.

In a post that was truncated due to Twitter's 140-character limit, Pietersen also added "Surrey have signed me for 1 ... [blank]." When contacted by Cricinfo, Surrey's chairman Paul Sheldon reacted with surprise, but added that he could offer no comment until after 5.15pm, which is the time that England's squad is due to be officially announced.

through early on were Russia's Elena Dementieva, the runner-up here in 2004, when she also reached the final of the French Open. The 12th seed had too much firepower for Olga Govortsova of Belarus, winning 6-1, 6-2.

Elena Baltacha meanwhile gave a much needed boost to British tennis by defeating Petra Martic of Croatia, who beat her at Wimbledon, 6-2, 6-2, while American Melanie Oudin, a huge crowd favourite here last year when she reached the quarterfinals, ousted Olga Savchuk of Ukraine 6-3, 6-0.

There was disappointment, though, for the struggling Safina, the top seed a year ago who is now on the comeback trail after being out for three months following the recurrence of a bad back injury.

The tall Russian put on a battling display against Slovak veteran Daniela Hantuchova, but bowed out 6-3, 6-4.

Watto was approached

Cricket

CRICINFO

Shane Watson, who reported two approaches by an illegal bookmaker in England last year, said he was in "complete shock" at the allegations levelled at Pakistan. Watson and his teammate Brad Haddin confirmed they were spoken to by the Indian man during the tour and immediately told Australia's manager Steve Bernard.

It has also emerged that Brett Lee and Mitchell Johnson were approached during the England tour. Bernard has referred two other bookie-instigated conversations to the International Cricket Council during his term as manager.

Watson was invited for drinks by the bookmaker, who the allrounder initially thought was a fan. "I didn't think too much more of it until I found out a bit more information and that he was actually one of the illegal bookmakers," Watson said in Sydney. "It was just a little bit different to what normal fans are." The approach occurred at the Royal Gardens hotel in London, which was the venue of a complaint reported by Cricinfo last year.

Haddin said the man had knocked on his door in the hotel asking if he wanted to go to his

room to have a drink. "I quickly rang Steve Bernard and John Rhodes [the ICC's security manager] just to tell them something weird had just happened," Haddin said.

"You don't usually get a knock on your door with someone asking you to come across to your room for a drink and then go out for dinner with someone you don't know." Footage of the person was checked and it was a figure familiar to investigators.

Watson was stunned by the revelations from the fourth Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's. "When I first heard about it I was in complete shock, there's no doubt about that," Watson said. "If the allegations are true then they will unfortunately get a lifetime ban."

The claims surrounding the no-balls delivered by Mohammad Aamer, the 18-year-old fast bowler, surprised and upset Watson. "I probably feel for him more than anyone because he's only a young, naive and innocent young guy," Watson said. "Unfortunately he's caught up with something."

"Whether it's in their culture I don't know, I don't know how deep it runs, but it's unfortunate that someone of his skill has got tied up with something that is damaging to cricket and to the individuals. I found him to be a brilliant competitor on the field."

Vettel the nicest guy, says Kimi

INTERNET



He may not be receiving much praise from his fellow F1 drivers just now, but under-fire Red Bull Racing star Sebastian Vettel has been labelled 'the nicest guy' on the grand prix grid by former world champion-turned-World Rally Championship convert Kimi Raikkonen.

Vettel has been slated by McLaren-Mercedes team principal Martin Whitmarsh for his 'habit of colliding with other drivers' and his 'junior formulae' error that removed Jenson Button from contention and quite possibly also from the title reckoning in last weekend's Belgian Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps, with the defending F1 World Champion himself arguing that his young German rival 'has made too many mistakes this year to fight for the world championship'.

However, Raikkonen -- who only a matter of months ago was linked with partnering Vettel at Red Bull in 2011 -- begs to differ, insisting that the 23-year-old can still claim the coveted crown in F1 2010 and revealing that the

Heppenheim native is to all intents and purposes the only driver from his erstwhile world with whom he still remains in touch.

"I have hardly any contact with the other drivers," the 30-year-old Finn said. "Sometimes I play badminton with Vettel -- he's the nicest guy of them all."

Whilst he has hinted on several occasions recently that F1 is now a closed book for him rather than the sabbatical that he had originally anticipated -- reasoning that he 'loves' his new career in rallying with the Citroën Junior Team as it is 'very, very exciting and the biggest challenge of my career', and having taken his maiden stage victory on Rallye Deutschland just over a week ago -- Raikkonen has since enigmatically persisted with his 'never-say-never' stance regarding an eventual return one day.

"In F1, there are too many things that are more important than the race" lamented the 18-time grand prix-winner. "It is too political and no-one says what they think because they're afraid about being taken out-of-context. I wouldn't say I won't return, though. First, let's take this season right to the end and then clarify some things. Then we'll see..."

This one even better!

REUTERS, New York



Roger Federer, like a father asked to rate his children, does not like playing favourites when it comes to dissecting his most spectacular shots on the tennis court.

The Swiss added another gem to his extraordinary collection with a between-the-legs, back-to-the-net winner that left opponent Brian Dabul dumbfounded and delighted the Centre Court crowd in his first round victory at the US Open on Monday.

Last year, the five-time US Open winner uncorked a similar shot that whizzed by Serbian Novak Djokovic standing at the net and gave Federer match point in their semifinal.

"What do you think?" Federer told reporters when asked whether Monday's shot was better than the 2009 missile that was dubbed "shot of the century" by scribes around the world.

ESPN TV, which was broadcasting the match in the United States, promoted a snap poll of viewers. Fifty-nine per cent voted in favour of the new shot.

Federer was not so sure.

"You think this one was better? I don't know,"

he said. "Obviously the importance of last year's was probably a little bit more important. So obviously that has a little bit of an impact, too."

"In terms of difficulty maybe this one was harder, because I had the feeling I had to run a longer distance and I was further back somehow."

"I had to really give the last big push at the end."

Federer said when he turned, he could not tell that his shot found the mark.

"Obviously the crowd gave me the answer, which was kind of good. The ovation was fantastic. Crowds went wild. Yeah, you could see on my reaction I couldn't believe it."

Federer, winner of a record 16 grand slam events, said that after 10 years on the professional circuit there were plenty of shots on his highlight reel.

"I know on YouTube, there are guys that are putting together best shots of me," he said.

On the question of trick shots, Federer was asked about the stir created by footage taken for a TV commercial that shows him knocking a can off someone's head that won a huge number of hits but has raised questions about its authenticity.

"One thing I tell you, that the shots on centre court in front of 22,000 people is a bit more difficult than what I did at the... commercial," Federer added. "That was just having a bit more fun."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Hallow- een abbr.	2	Milky stone	23	Donkey	
1	Court	38	See 18- Across	3	Maestro	24	Hearty quaff
4	Bellow	45	Certain coin	4	Klem- perer	25	Tier
8	On	46	Rue the run	4	Get back	26	Grow
12	Suitable	47	Scull need	5	Pre- diploma hurdles	27	Each
13	Sea eagle	48	Natalie's father	5	From the beginning	28	Gun the engine
14	Spanish appetizer	49	Non- clerical	6	At ease	29	Indivisible
15	Natalie's father	50	Lab sci.	7	Fermi's bits	31	Get in touch
16	Author Greene	51	Boom times	8	Urban link	32	Phi- Kappa link
17	The yoke's on them	52	1979 Fleet- wood album	9	Transport	34	Feathery accessory
18	Ecologi- sts' concern	53	Rent album	10	Tourna- ment format	35	Plot
21	Fleur- de- —	54	Profit	11	Throe	36	Painter's protector
22	Strikes (out)	DOWN		19	Amor- phous sci-fi villain	37	Yellowish color
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26	Marry	Solution time: 27 mins.				39	Waikiki wing- ding
27	Paid player					40	Rainbow
30	Unkempt one					41	She loved Narcissus
31	Scoundrel					42	Proper subject, perhaps
32	Existed					43	Stare open- mouthed
33	Wield a needle					44	Formerly, formerly
34	Carton						
35	Tennis starter						
36	Trinity member						

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CRYPTOQUIP

AGDE LGD YSLLDZQ ASEL
S PDQQDZL LX QESFU XE,
FXBIP HXB SQQBKD LGDH
CZXYSYIH KSUD SYBEL FSUD?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WELL-KNOWN NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN WHO LOVED TO PARTICIPATE IN BOHEMIAN DANCES: POLKA-HONTAS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals O