



Workers gather at the scene of a collapsed footbridge at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main venue for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, in New Delhi yesterday.

Trouble hits CWG

Stadium footbridge collapses, 23 hurt

AFP, New Delhi



A footbridge under construction at the main stadium for the Delhi Commonwealth Games collapsed on Tuesday, injuring 23 labourers, five seriously, police said.

The approximately 100-metre (328-foot) pedestrian bridge fell down just outside the main Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which will host the opening ceremony and athletics when the showpiece event begins on October 3.

It was being built to link the parking lot with the stadium.

"The number of injured has gone up to 23... Five labourers are critically injured," a senior Delhi policeman HGS Dhaliwal told the NDTV news channel.

An AFP reporter at the scene said police had sealed off the area and heavy lifting equipment had begun shifting sections of the footbridge which had fallen down onto the carpark tarmac below.

A giant steel arch over the bridge was still standing, but load-bearing metal cables that had previously held up the overpass had snapped and could be seen dangling in the air.

"The cementing of the footbridge was being done in the morning," chief secretary of Delhi Rakesh Mehta told CNN-IBN television. "The engineers are looking into the cause of the accident."

Construction work for the games, expected to draw 7,000 athletes and officials to the Indian capital, has been severely delayed and doubts have been raised about the quality of the construction.

India's chief anti-corruption body found a host of problems with construction work in a July investigation, including dubious contracts and the use of poor quality materials.

The chief technical examiner from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) inspected 15 sites around the national capital and found a number of irregularities and suspect practices by contractors and public bodies.

The collapse came as the Commonwealth Games Federation went public with complaints about the athletes' village, which was described as "filthy", "uninhabitable" and "not fit for humans" by participants and officials.

The official price tag for the games is three billion US dollars -- about five times the original figure.

Davis Cup final in Belgrade

AFP, Paris

Belgrade will host this year's Davis Cup final between Serbia and France, the International Tennis Federation announced on Monday.

The December 3-5 match-up pits first-time finalists Serbia against nine-time champions France, who last appeared at this stage of the competition back in 2002.

Serbia reached the final for the first time in their 16-year history in the competition after coming from behind to defeat Czech Republic 3-2 in their semifinal in Belgrade at the weekend.

Serbia are bidding to become only the 13th Davis Cup champion nation after a spectacular run to the 2010 final.

The country only made their World Group debut in 2008, winning their first World Group tie earlier this year.

Women's T20 from Sept 25

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi take on Khulna in the opening match of the 4th Women's National Cricket League Twenty20 competition on September 25 at the Sylhet Divisional Stadium.

The six-team tournament is being held to facilitate the preparation for the XVI Asian Games in Guangzhou where the Bangladesh team will be participating in the women's cricket event. Due to the format in the Asian, the BCB Women's Wing has decided to hold this year's NCL in Twenty20 format.

The final will be held on October 6 at the same venue.

2nd Councilor Gold Cup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Ward No. 5 and Ward No. 14 won big in Tuesday's matches of the 2nd Councilor Cup Football tournament at the Rajshahi District Stadium yesterday.

Ward No. 14 won 4-0 against Ward No. 21 in the day's first match with Malek scoring all four goals.

Ward No. 5 beat Ward No. 30 6-1 in the second match. Sagar scored four goals while Parvez and Shafi scored one each.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton has watched one of the two matches everyday and he said the city corporation sponsored the tournament to help the city's youths building their career in football.

Umpires win friendlies in Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Umpires & Scorers XI easily defeated Nepal Umpires XI in a two-match series at the Tribhuvan University International Cricket Ground in Kirtipur yesterday.

In the first match of the day, the visitors won by eight wickets, thanks to a four-wicket haul from Tanvir Ahmed.

Later, Mohammad Rony's 46 was the match-winning innings as the Bangladeshi umpires won the match by 20 runs and took the series 2-0.

Pakistan

England were all but out of the game when Eoin Morgan, the last of England's recognised batsman, skied a straight drive off Akhtar and Mohammad Yousuf, not the most agile of fielders, held a steeping catch to leave the hosts 211 for eight in the 44th over.

Gul finished the match with 23 balls to spare when he bowled Stuart Broad.

Swann, on the day he was shortlisted for the ICC player of the year award, bowled Asad Shafiq and had Mohammad Yousuf caught behind before opener Hafeez edged an attempted big hit and was caught at short third man by Trot, to end a 100-ball innings featuring a six and five fours.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 265 for 7 in 50 overs (Kamran 28, Hafeez 64, Fawad 29, Afridi 37, Razaq 44 not out; Swann 4-37, Broad 2-44)

ENGLAND: 227 all out in 46.1 overs (Strauss 68, Davies 49, Morgan 28, bell 27; Gul 4-32, Akhtar 3-59)

Result: Pakistan won by 38 runs. **Man-of-the-match:** Abdul Razaq.

Bushrangers stay alive

AFP, Centurion



The Victoria Bushrangers outclassed a dismal Wayamba Elevens team at SuperSport Park on Monday night to keep alive their hopes of reaching the semi-finals of the Champions League Twenty20 tournament.

Fast bowler Peter Siddle took four for 29 as Wayamba crashed to 106 all out in 16.3 overs, losing their last eight wickets for 25 runs.

Victoria hurried to victory with 6.4 overs to spare with captain David Hussey hitting 47 not out and opening batsman Aaron Finch making 38 not out.

The Bushrangers, who have completed their round robin fixtures with six points from three wins, now have to await the result of a match between Chennai Super Kings and the Eastern Cape Warriors in Port Elizabeth on Wednesday.

If the unbeaten Warriors beat Chennai, they will go through with Victoria, but if Chennai win the semi-finals places will be decided on run rate.

Chennai have the best net run rate of 2.57 but need the win to draw level on points. The Warriors are on 0.98 and Victoria's big win lifted them into positive territory on 0.03.

"Hopefully we can go a long way in this tournament because we are playing some good cricket now," said Hussey.

Wayamba reached 81 for two after ten overs with Mahela Jayawardene (51) and captain Jehan Mubarak (44) putting on 72 off 52 balls for the third wicket. But Mubarak fell to a superb catch at cover by Hussey and the Sri Lankan side collapsed ignominiously against the fast bowling of Siddle and James Pattinson and the medium pace of Andrew McDonald.

Nine batsmen contributed five runs between them, with six failing to score.

Victoria were outstanding in the field but Wayamba followed their poor batting by dropping two early catches and missing a run-out opportunity as well as allowing extra runs through misfields.

"That was probably our worst performance of the tournament," said Mubarak.

"We need to do a lot of soul searching."

SCORES IN BRIEF

WAYAMBA ELEVENS: 106 all out in 16.3 overs (Jayawardene 51, Mubarak 44; Pattinson 2-14, Siddle 4-29, McDonald 2-22)

VICTORIA BUSHRANGERS: 108 for 2 in 13.2 overs (Finch 38 not out, Hussey 47 not out) **Result:** Victoria won by eight wickets.

Sachin upset about coming IPL auction

Cricket

CRICINFO

Sachin Tendulkar, the Mumbai Indians captain, has expressed his disappointment at the prospect of his team being broken up ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) player auction in November.

Tendulkar said the Mumbai franchise had worked hard to build its team and it was "tough to accept" that the composition had to change.

"I feel it is about building teams, not breaking teams," Tendulkar said. "We have really worked hard to build this team and have got together brilliantly. In the third year we held a couple of camps, which had nothing to do with cricket. It was just about getting together and building team spirit."

"Right from the management and the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ambani, they have all put in a lot of effort along with the players, and then you realise that the team has to change. It's tough to accept that."

The Mumbai Indians were the first IPL side to be eliminated from the Champions League Twenty20 in South Africa and have probably played their last competitive game together. Under the new IPL regulations, each of the eight franchises that participated in the 2010

season can retain up to four players, only three of whom can be Indians. All the other international capped players, as well as those who have played 75 per cent of their side's IPL matches in 2010, will be part of the auction.

"I don't know, it's not my job to figure what's right or wrong, but I feel if a player is happy to play for a particular team, it's good he stays with that team," Tendulkar said, when asked if he was happy with the retention formula. "There's some sort of identity with that team. We have a huge following now and it's also an attachment with a particular team."

Rahul Dravid, the Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman, however, has offered a different point of view. He said that since two new franchises -- Pune and Kochi -- had been added to the IPL, increasing the number of teams to ten, the majority of the players had to go into the auction. "One has to understand that two more teams are entering the IPL," Dravid said last week, "and the beauty of the IPL is that it's very competitive, anyone can win."

"We don't want to end up in a situation like in the Premiership (English Premier League) where only three or four teams can win the tournament. It's an even playing field. I like the concept of everyone having a chance to do well as it raises the level of the tournament. It raises the interest levels also."

No headway

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March 2008 in line with the International Olympic charter.

But the crisis arose when most of the ad-hoc committees withdrew their representatives to send new ones, asking the BOA the justification of keeping the previous representatives in the BOA executive committee.

So far, thirteen executive members are still representing the different federations and organisations at the BOA committee despite the withdrawal of their councillorships.

General secretaries had also placed a memorandum to the Sports Minister to reconstruct the BOA executive committee.

They also questioned the post of BOA chief executive officer, which has no existence in the constitution.

After the meeting, the minister told the reporters that they had only discussed the upcoming Commonwealth Games in India. They had no discussion on the reconstruction of the BOA executive committee, he said.

But a source who attended the meeting said that the minister asked the BOA president to solve the crisis as soon as possible, and the BOA chief

Redbacks

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to rest that he cannot do well in this format.

The bowling was not at its best today and Harris was the surprise package with 3 wickets while Daniel Christian, as usual, contributed his bit, with 2 wickets.

Is reasonably happy with his performance and says that the target was a big one and they were sure that if they bowled well, they could close the game down. Is enjoying the conditions here and is looking forward for the semi-finals.

Ramnaresh Sarwan gets the highest run scorer of the match award for his brilliant knock of 70. Callum Ferguson gets the man of the match award for his 55 from 37 balls.

SCORE IN BRIEF

SOUTH AUSTRALIA REDBACKS: 191 for 6 in 20 overs (Ferguson 55, Borgas 48, Christian 23, Klinger 16; Wintz 2-11, Bishoo 2-29)

GUYANA: 176 for 7 in 20 overs (Sarwan 70, Ramdeen 35, Jacobs 32; Harris 3-33, Christian 2-20)

Result: South Australia Redbacks won by 15 runs. **Man-of-the-match:** Callum Ferguson.

Afridi & co could have called cops

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's one-day captain Shahid Afridi said on Tuesday his team could have filed a police complaint against England batsman Jonathan Trott over an altercation with fast bowler Wahab Riaz.

Newspaper reports said Trott and Riaz had an altercation minutes before the fourth one-day at Lord's, with Trott grabbing Riaz by the throat after both exchanged heated words in the net area. Reports said the incident started when Trott accidentally struck Riaz with his pads as he took them off.

"When Riaz was returning after warming up Trott called him a 'match fixer' and that he [Riaz] was up to harming Test cricket and hit his face with the pad," Afridi said in London. "It could have been a police case because it is a crime to hit someone, but we showed a big heart and did not press for it."

TroTT was also involved in an ugly exchange of words with Pakistan wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal during the first one-day game at Chester-le-Street on September 10.

After the altercation between Trott and Riaz, Afridi confirmed that there were suggestions Pakistan should not play the match in protest. "But we finally decided that it wouldn't be appropriate," said Afridi, praising his team for their spirit.

Badminton

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forced to arrange it at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium which will be lighted up through the temporary electricity line and we have to spend a lot of money for this purpose," said BTF general secretary Shamsul Alam Anu yesterday.

NSC director (planning and development) Abdur Rahman, however, said that the electricity will be fixed in a couple of days and all the processes have been completed.

"The electricity is set to return by today (Tuesday) or tomorrow (Wednesday) and at the moment I don't know whether it is completed," said Rahman.

'We were disturbed'

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss insisted his side were still seething at Pakistan cricket chief Ijaz Butt's claims they'd deliberately lost last week's third ODI after the tourists levelled the series at 2-2 with a convincing 38-run success at Lord's here on Monday.

And he was adamant the statement released by England shortly before the toss at Lord's in which they said they were contemplating legal action against Butt was no ideal threat.

The fraught atmosphere surrounding this series was heightened yet further by a pre-match confrontation in the Lord's nets between England's Jonathan Trott and Pakistan's Wahab Riaz, although both sides played it down.

But, in an interview with the Indian NDTV news channel, said on Sunday: "There is loud and clear talk in bookie circles that some English players were paid enormous amounts of money to lose the [Oval] match."

Strauss, whose pre-match statement expressed England's "dismay" at Butt's allegations, told reporters after stumps at Lord's: "We were very absolutely outraged by the allegations yesterday [Sunday]."

"We refute them completely and we were very disturbed that someone would come out with those allegations without any proof to back them up."

As for the prospect of legal action, the opening batsman added: "We are going to explore every avenue available to us to make sure our names aren't sullied in this manner."

But the opener said the row would not be used as an excuse for England's latest loss.

"There were obviously a lot of meetings last [Sunday] night. We didn't have a lot of time to respond to the allegations that surfaced."

"Was it ideal preparation? No, there's no doubt about that. But I wouldn't use that as an excuse."

A drained Strauss added: "I've got to give a lot of credit to my players for the professional manner they went

about their business, and ultimately I'm very proud of them from that point of view."

Strauss, asked if he'd questioned the England team to find out if there was indeed any substance to Butt's claims, replied tersely: "I did not need to ask that question."

England's pre-match statement said, despite their "misgivings" they'd play at Lord's and in the final match of the series at the Rose Bowl on Wednesday because they recognised "our responsibilities to the game of cricket."

In Monday's match, Pakistan had been 155 for five, with England off-spinner Graeme Swann taking four for 37.

But they finished on 265 for seven thanks mainly to Abdul Razaq's rapid unbeaten 44.

"Abdul Razaq played exceptionally well at the end, Strauss said. "You've got to give credit where it's due, it was outstanding hitting."

Imran

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not absolve you." Imran said Pakistan's cricket team has long been a target of British tabloids.

"Remember they called Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis cheats for ball-tampering when they destroyed England on the 1992 tour and when England won the Ashes series in 2005 the reverse swing became an art and skill."

"There are double standards," said Imran. "When England had fast bowlers there were no curbs on fast bowling but when the West Indies had a battery of fast bowlers it became a threat and so many curbs were put against fast bowlers like restriction on bouncers etc."

Imran stressed Pakistan cricket "has to put its house in order" adding that, "there should no longer be a PCB chairman nominated by President of Pakistan who is not accountable to anyone."

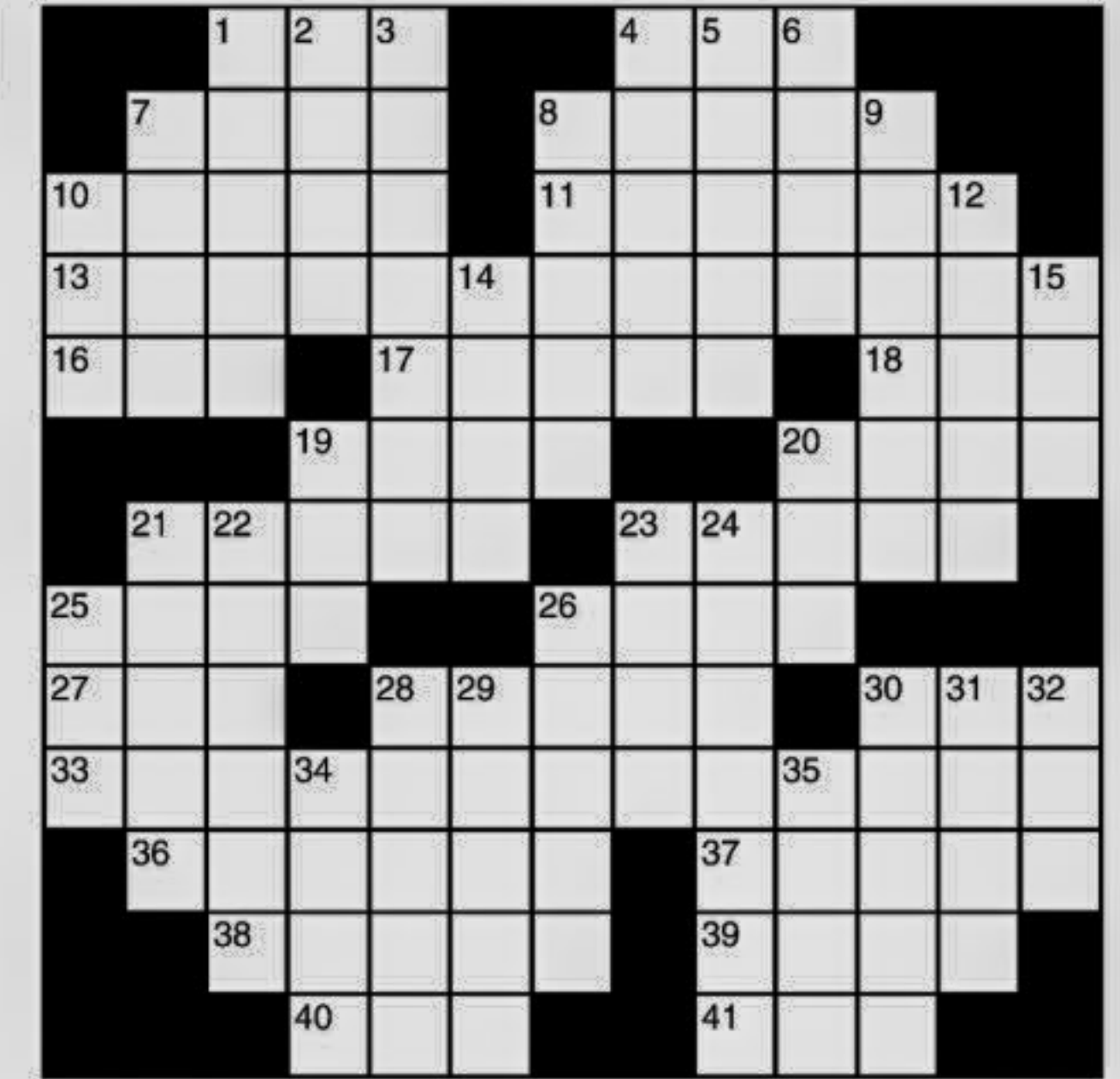
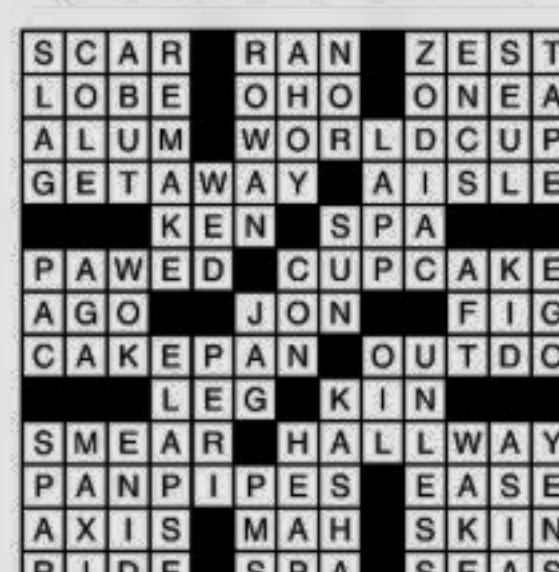


Pakistan paceman Umar Gul is exultant at the dismissal of last England batsman Stuart Broad in the fourth one-day international at Lord's on Monday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Corn eater's castoff
 - 4 Drunkard
 - 7 Smart phone?
 - 8 Lomond and Ness
 - 10 Sound from a rapid-flying object
 - 11 Comprehension
 - 13 Small, unpretentious place
 - 16 Hooter
 - 17 Search
 - 18 Meadow
 - 19 Unopened flowers
 - 20 Nervous
 - 21 Host
 - 23 Hardly neat
 - 25 Raised
 - 26 On deck
 - 27 Grecian vessel
 - 28 Drink noisily
 - 30 Rotation dura-
 - 33 Aced, on
 - 36 Tire links
 - 37 "Monopoly" type
 - 38 Some boxers' jabs
 - 39 Forever and ever
 - 40 To the degree
 - 41 "CSI" evidence
 - 10 16-Across' query?
 - 12 Poem of lament
 - 14 Undraped
 - 15 Minstrel's song
 - 19 The A train?
 - 20 Superlative suffix
 - 21 Boo-boo
 - 22 Telepathic
 - 23 Unembellished
 - 24 Lapsed
 - 25 Insect
 - 26 Zeroes
 - 28 9-to-5, e.g.
 - 29 Reluctant
 - 30 The D in
 - DKNY
 - 31 Farm animals?
 - 32 "Absolutely"
 - 34 Mideast gulf
 - 35 Night light?

Solution time: 21 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

Y H M B J N V S T H Y T C V Y U
C J D Y F X U H L D U S F J U O T S R O J C
U S U X J F N S L T C , R S L D C Q S L
V M Q X J ' V U M R O D J C B Y T O ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO KEEP ITS ENGINEERS IN REALLY GOOD SHAPE, I THINK THE RAILROAD RECENTLY HIRED A TRACK COACH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals U