

Alonso wins Korean GP

AFP, Yeongam
Ferrari's Fernando Alonso won a chaotic, rain-hit Korean Grand Prix on Sunday to seize the lead in the Formula One World Championship as his Red Bull rivals crashed out.

The 29-year-old Spaniard took his third victory in the past four races after pole-sitter and race leader Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull Racing was forced to retire with a blown engine on lap 46 of the 55-lap race.

The inaugural Grand Prix in South Korea finished in near-darkness after a rain-delayed start and a red flag after just three laps because of the soaked track, with the race taking almost three hours to complete.

Australian Mark Webber, the championship leader heading into the first race at the new Yeongam circuit, crashed on lap 19 when running in second position to Vettel. It was the Red Bull driver's second non-finish of the year.

Alonso's victory, 14 seconds ahead of Britain's Lewis Hamilton, was the 26th of his career, and the first in wet conditions. Brazilian Felipe Massa rounded out the podium for Ferrari.

With two races remaining and a maximum 50 points to be won, Alonso has 231 points, an 11-point lead over second-placed Webber. Hamilton, the 2008 world champion, is in third place with 210 points, while Vettel has 206.

Malik wants to fight for justice

PTI, Karachi
Former Pakistan cricket captain Salim Malik has threatened to expose the truth behind the match-fixing inquiry report that came out about 10 years ago.

Malik was banned for life on the recommendations of the one-man inquiry tribunal headed by justice (ret'd) Malik Qayyum in 2000 while five other players were let off with fines as the tribunal didn't find sufficient evidence to ban them.

"Why was I made the scapegoat, it is a travesty of justice that the other players who were named, suspected and questioned in the match-fixing inquiry are now all holding prime cricket positions," he said.

The 47-year-old Malik who leads a secluded life, said in an interview that it pains him to see Waqar Younis coaching the Pakistan team or Mushtaq Ahmed coaching the England team and Akram Raza working as a first class umpire in Pakistan.

Where is

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The deal was to have a confirmed schedule early in a year so that the minimum guaranteed money that they would pay could be determined through the bank guarantee, but that has never been put into practice.

Earlier this year, the board president along with vice-president Mahbubul Anam went to Mumbai to hammer out some kind of understanding with Nimbus so that they pay BCB 10 million dollars immediately and the remaining 13 million later.

Abahani

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with their usual performance tomorrow (Monday)," said Abahani's assistant coach Amlesh Sen yesterday.

"Our target is to play in the final. We know that they have a good collection of foreign players, but we are only thinking about a win," said Abahani captain Protosh Kumar.

The return of Ghanaian defender Samad Yousif will no doubt strengthen Abahani's backline which looked feeble against Sheikh Russel KC. Abahani manager Satyajit Das Rupu informed that playmaker Yusuf Aminu is also set to make his debut for the Sky Blues.

Brothers rested eight of their regular players in a 3-0 defeat against Muktiyoddha Sangsad after having already qualified for the semis. The officials are expecting a good show from the strikers though the defence remains a big concern for Brothers.

"Our main strength lies in midfield and attack. There is good understanding among midfielder Everton, strikers Enock Bentil and Richard," said Brothers coach Wasim Iqbal. "I am not worried with the defence rather I hope that tomorrow turns out to be another good day for the boys."

The match will be telecast live on Bangladesh Television from 5:00pm.



PHOTO: AFP
Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso of Spain raises the trophy on the podium after winning the South Korean Grand Prix at the Korean International Circuit in Yeongam yesterday.

Squad for India named New Zealand stick to tested players

Cricket
AFP, Wellington

New Zealand selectors on Sunday went for continuity in a 15-man squad of few surprises which includes only two new caps for next month's tricky three-Test series in India.

But they held back on naming the one-day squad as recriminations continue over New Zealand's recent 0-4 whitewash at the hands of supposed minnows Bangladesh.

The two new Test players are batsman Kane Williamson and fast bowler Hamish Bennett, who were both on the Bangladesh tour. Coach and selector Mark Greatbatch said the pair deserved their step up to Test status after showing promise in Bangladesh, where Williamson scored his maiden one-day international century.

"Kane Williamson is an impressive young talent and his game continues to improve with his involvement in the national team, while Bennett did everything asked of him on the recent tour of Bangladesh and offers the side a genuine pace option," Greatbatch said.

Batsman Mathew Sinclair is the only player

missing from New Zealand's last Test appearance, against Australia in March.

Six players -- Brent Arnel, Martin Guphill, Chris Martin, Tim McIntosh, Gareth Hopkins and Jeetan Patel -- will travel directly to India from Zimbabwe, where they have been playing for New Zealand A and are free from any fallout from the one-day series.

Greatbatch said the Test side was not exempt from the one-day debacle in Bangladesh.

"We are well aware that our recent performances are not up to scratch and we need to improve if we are to compete with a very strong Indian side. The team are determined to do so."

The Test matches are at Ahmedabad on November 4, Hyderabad on November 12 and Nagpur on November 28.

A revised squad for the five one-dayers will be named closer to the opening game, at Guwahati on November 28.

SQUAD

Daniel Vettori (captain), Brent Arnel, Hamish Bennett, Martin Guphill, Gareth Hopkins, Chris Martin, Brendon McCullum, Tim McIntosh, Andy McKay, Jeetan Patel, Jesse Ryder, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, BJ Watling, Kane Williamson.

Prasad eyes Aussie job

Cricket
PTI, Melbourne

Former Indian seamer Venkatesh Prasad has emerged as a candidate to replace Troy Cooley as Australia's pace bowling coach after the 2011 World Cup in the sub-continent, a report said on Sunday.

Following the appointment of Cooley as head of the Centre of Excellence in Brisbane, Cricket Australia are looking for a new man to take his place after the World Cup next year, and Prasad offers many of the attributes required, according to a report by Australian Associated Press.

According to the report, Prasad, the ex-bowling coach of the Indian team, has expressed his interest for the job if approached. "I would certainly consider it, it would definitely be an honour to share your expertise and be part of a very good team in Australia," Prasad said.

"It is nice to know that people are thinking about me as an option," he added. Prasad, who played 33 Tests between 1996 and 2001, has more recently been employed by the Indian Premier League's Chennai Super Kings, where he worked alongside Australian paceman Doug Bollinger.

As a crafty swing and seam merchant Prasad enjoyed success in conditions as helpful as

England and as unhelpful as the subcontinent. Prasad has shared his lucid thoughts on the Australian bowling attack while commentating on the ongoing India-Australia series on television, and has several points to offer on tactics and also their curious lack of reverse swing.

"They [Australia] have got some wonderful bowlers but they lack the vast experience that they had before. They need to work on more consistency. I feel it is not just about the talent," he said.

"Against a batting line-up of the quality of India's, batsmen who are very good against spin and also on pitches that don't offer much encouragement to the pace bowlers, they were not showing a lot of patience."

"It can be important in those situations to have your plans and wait for things to happen -- if you try to do too much you will provide scoring opportunities for the batsmen," said Prasad. Bollinger apparently made a strong impression on Prasad in their time in Chennai.

"He [Bollinger] is an amazing bowler when he's on the park -- he has everything. I saw in the first Test in Mohali that even though he had that difficult lead-in playing in South Africa he was running in hard, hitting the crease and hurrying the batsmen," he said.

"If Ricky Ponting had him at the end of the first Test and for the second Test we might have seen a different result."

Butt vows to prove innocence

AFP, Karachi

Suspended Pakistan batsman Salman Butt Saturday vowed to prove his innocence over allegations of spot-fixing on the recent tour of England.

The 26-year-old was suspended along with bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer after they were charged with offences under the anti-corruption code of conduct last month.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended them following revelations by British tabloid The News of the World and subsequent investigations by police into allegations of spot-fixing during the Lord's Test against England in August.

The trio appealed against the suspension earlier this month and an ICC code of conduct commission was due to hear their appeals on October 30 and 31 in Doha, Qatar, but the hearing was moved to Dubai after Asif withdrew his appeal. Salman, who was Pakistan's Test captain until he was suspended, pleaded innocence in the case.

"We are innocent and have to fight our case on our own," Salman told Pakistan's Geo television.

"The first and the foremost thing is to fight this case out and I am eager to do that."

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) reportedly withdrew support for the players and directed them to fight the case on their own.

Earlier this week the PCB also barred the trio from using practice facilities at the national cricket academy while their case was ongoing.

Salman said it was for the accuser to prove the case.

Kremlin Cup Azarenka's

AFP, Moscow

Second seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus won the WTA Kremlin Cup tournament on Sunday by defeating Russia's Maria Kirilenko 6-3, 6-4 in the final.

Currently 10th in the WTA rankings, Azarenka started the match with a break of serve but Kirilenko, who was seeded sixth, broke back immediately to level at one game all.

Scottsdale, Arizona resident Azarenka looked more focused and powerful and she grabbed two further breaks to gain a one-set advantage in 47 minutes.

Kirilenko picked up steam in the second set breaking serve twice in a row to jump out into a commanding 4-0 lead before Azarenka moved up a gear and won six consecutive games to clinch her fifth career title.

"It was really tough to win the second set as Maria started pretty good dominating the play completely," Azarenka said. "I tried hard to stay in the match battling for every point and finally it paid off."

"I'm really happy to win here at my third attempt though I still do not understand completely what I've done."

ATN Bangla to sponsor school football tourney

SPORTS REPORTER

While the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is apparently struggling to rope in a regular partner in progress, satellite television channel ATN Bangla has come forward with a promise to sponsor the school football tournament for a long time.

It has been a common picture in the football arena that running the school football across the country regularly gets stumbled just after completion a single edition as the sponsors cut their relations with the football's governing body. But this time ATN Bangla chairman Mahfuzur Rahman, who was made the chairman of school football committee, promised that his

house would be with school football even if a new committee took over in future.

"It is not possible to provide all the money from ATN, but we expect to involve country's different corporate houses with us in sponsoring the school football and we hope we will be with school football until Bangladesh wins the World Cup," said Mahfuzur at an introductory ceremony at the BFF House yesterday.

The ATN School Football initially gets underway in the first week of January next year in seven divisional headquarters where the selective schools from districts under respective division will participate in the group stage matches before moving to

Dhaka for the finals.

Earlier, the BFF accorded a floral welcome to Mahfuzur at the local football's headquarters where most of the BFF officials were present.

"It is an auspicious day for BFF as he [Mahfuzur Rahman] showed his interest in school football and I believe if we can work together we will be able to take school football forward," said BFF president Kazi Salahuddin.

BFF vice-presidents Badal Roy and Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir, members Harun-or-Rashid, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, Khurshid Babul, Fazlur Rahman Babul, Sirajul Islam Bachchu and ATN's Nawajesh Ali Khan were among others present.

ICC hails PCB's steps

Cricket
CRICINFO

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has given a cautious nod of approval to the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) efforts in toughening its approach to corruption in cricket and undertaking reforms to improve the administration of the game in Pakistan. However, the ICC has warned against complacency and reiterated a series of measures to all member boards to make efforts at eliminating corruption in the aftermath of the spot-fixing controversy.

"We are encouraged by the excellent progress reported and also the willingness of the Pakistan Cricket Board to embrace the ICC recommendations," ICC CEO Haroon Lorgat said after a meeting of the Pakistan task force, a group aimed at bringing international cricket back to Pakistan, on Saturday. "However, we can never be complacent nor distracted in our determination to tackle corruption."

The ICC, earlier this month, had warned the PCB over the continuing decline of governance in Pakistan cricket and had conveyed a clear message to get its act together by sorting out the game's administration or facing the consequences, possibly in the form of sanctions. The PCB was given a 30-day deadline to conduct a thorough and far-reaching

review of its "player integrity issues" and report back to the task force.

In the interim, the PCB, as advised by the ICC, has introduced a revised code of conduct with a strong emphasis on anti-corruption which has been signed by all players ahead of the tour of the UAE later this month. The board has also set up an Integrity Committee, aimed at finding ways to move forward after the spot-fixing controversy, deal with the ICC's recommendations and address issues of corruption and doping, each of which have plagued Pakistan cricket in the past. The committee comprises several senior officials of the board including chairman Ijaz Butt, chief operating officer Wasim Bari, team manager Intikhab Alam and director of international cricket Zakir Khan.

The PCB has also been asked to implement education programmes for players, a "proper, accountable and robust disciplinary process for the sport" and a process to deter and detect corrupt elements within the game, "whether it be players, officials, agents or any other individual."

Giles Clarke, the ECB chairman, who heads the Pakistan task force, emphasised the need for the PCB to reform itself. "The task team urged everyone to support the PCB to reform its cricket and governance models and the important role Ijaz Butt has to play in this regard," Clarke said. "An

independent board would help it to regain its glory and ensure long-term success."

Lorgat also reiterated the ICC's recommendations to member boards for eliminating corruption in the game. They included the introduction of a domestic anti-corruption code that mirrors the ICC's. He further urged members to review player contracts and introduce appropriate clauses to ensure players comply with anti-corruption rules and regulations.

Among the initiatives discussed was a one-off declaration by all players as a commitment to preserving the integrity of the game. "We have issued a broad advisory to every ICC Member about the need to root out corruption from our great sport," Lorgat said. "This advisory requests all international players and support personnel to sign a once-off declaration before participating in the next FTP match and/or ICC event."

"Such declaration is intended to serve as an important reminder of the spirit in which the game is meant to be played, the importance of its integrity and their roles and responsibilities in this regard."

The Pakistan Task Force includes Clarke, Lorgat, Zimbabwe Cricket chief Peter Chingoka, ICC's General Manager of Cricket David Richardson, Chief match referee Ranjan Madugalle and former captains Mike Brearley and Rameez Raja.



PHOTO: AFP
Belarussian Victoria Azarenka kisses the winner's trophy after beating Russian Maria Kirilenko in the Kremlin Cup final in Moscow yesterday. Azarenka won 6-3, 6-4.

Kamal's

FROM PAGE 17
The smooth running of these age-group competitions across the country, holding any district responsible if they don't take part in any of the tournaments.

The 139 BCB councillors (out of 168) who attended the AGM unanimously approved the minutes of the AGM and EGM held in 2006 and 2008. Apart from that, the CEO's report and audited accounts for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the BCB annual budget for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 were all approved as was the appointment of an auditor.

Costlier A\$ could keep Barmy Army at home

Cricket
AFP, Sydney

The last time England's 'Barmy Army' came to Australia for an Ashes series they mocked the locals by singing: "We're fat, we're round, three dollars to the pound."

But that's unlikely to be the case during this year's Ashes series as the global financial crisis and the soaring Aussie dollar have dramatically cut the number of English tourists travelling to Australia to support their team, reports said Sunday.

Around 37,000 British fans travelled to Australia to watch a 5-0 drubbing in the last Ashes series here four years ago.

For fans making the journey this time the cost in exchange-rate terms will be more than 50 per cent higher.

Cricket Australia said that thousands of tickets reserved for tourists might be reallocated to locals as it becomes apparent numbers will be well down on those who visited during the 2006-07 Ashes.

"We will be doing a review in mid-November and it is possible that some of the tickets allocated to inbound tourism that are returned to Cricket Australia are put back onto the market to become available to the Australian public," CA spokesman Peter Young told the Sun-Herald.

crisis in Britain was likely to cause overseas supporter numbers to dwindle.

"The particular impact of the global financial crisis has affected the Barmy Army demographic, which has a high number of white collar professionals in its membership," he said.

"The exchange rate is another big factor. It's now twice as expensive for them to visit as it was last time."

But CA said even should this eventuality occur its bottom line was unlikely to be affected. "We would expect the net effect to be zero for us," Young said.

"If the inbound visitor tickets don't sell, they'll be available to the general public and, given the extraordinary demand for Ashes tickets, we'd expect them to sell quickly."

Barmy Army co-founder David Peacock said the organisation expected to sell about 1000 tour packages but felt early positive results for England could lead to a rush of travelling fans.

"If England are in a strong position we are expecting huge numbers to make last-minute bookings to get to the [fourth Test] Melbourne Cricket Ground and [fifth Test] Sydney Cricket Ground, as they are willing to pay the increased costs to hopefully see the first victory on Australian soil since 1986-87," Peacock said.

England recently moved to fourth on the Test rankings as Australia dropped to fifth place following their 2-0 series loss to India this month.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Smooch
5 Light-switch setting
8 Golf ball holders
12 Handel's "Mes-siah," e.g.
14 And others (Abbr.)
15 Aardvark
16 Emanation
17 Donkey
18 With almost no effort
20 Grown-up
23 Competent
24 Scottish girl
25 Movie-house dir.
29 The — and the Papas
30 Disen-cumber
32 "— love hath no man ..."

DOWN
1 — con-strictor
2 Coffee vessel
3 Perched
4 Filches
5 Table scraps
6 "A pox upon thee!"
7 Ancestor
8 Afternoon service?
9 Needle case
10 Viscount's superior
11 Do in
13 Brewer's kiln
19 "Sad to say, ..."
20 Hearty quaff

21 "Phooey!"
22 Addict
23 Record producer
24 Ertegun
25 In shreds
26 See 39-
27 Down
28 Roller coaster,
29 Primary
30 Mafia
31 bigwig
32 Marshall
33 Mothers' case
34 rap
35 Monks
36 Diver
37 Cutting tools
38 Lotion additive
39 With 26-Down,
War of 1812 battle site
40 Whirl
43 Ostrich's cousin
44 Light brown
45 Greek vowel
46 — U.S. Pat. Off.

Solution time: 24 mins.
LONG RASP FAB
OBOE ERNE ERE
REDO MEAT TIN
DYER EAR JAZZ
GOD ETA
CAMEBY SAMPLE
ADOBE PERON
ROBUST RESOLD
SEA EDW
ARCH MEN OPAL
COM FAST OLLA
HMM ELSE DEMO
YEA WEED SASS

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CRYPTOQUIP

VNDM X "EIXY VXYE" LAYA
YDXKKO ZYXGDE X HDEEDYI
JTRZD ZYDXW, WRLNI ND
GRERI X OJHX TJAMIXRM?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THAT POOR HAMMERHEAD LACKED ANY COMPANIONSHIP, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT A LONE SHARK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E