

Roger levels Davis Cup tie

Hafeez stars in Pak win

Clash of crisis clubs

Tennis AFP, Sydney Swiss maestro Roger Federer came back from losing the first set to see off an inspired Lleyton Hewitt and level the Davis Cup World Group playoff tie against Australia on Friday.

AFP, Harare Pakistan stamped their authority over Zimbabwe at Harare Sports Club on Friday, winning the first of two Twenty20 matches by a huge 85 runs.

AFP, Rome Inter Milan and Roma will aim to put mediocre starts to the season behind them when they meet Saturday at the San Siro, when defeat for either club could set alarm bells ringing.

But the world number three dug deep to break back and win the set on a tiebreak before pulling away to win 5-7, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 6-3. Hewitt struggled to hold serve throughout the opener and never looked like breaking Federer until he seized his chance at 5-5, pouncing on loose play from the Swiss legend to take the advantage.



Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer celebrates after defeating Lleyton Hewitt of Australia in the second match of the Davis Cup world group play-off in Sydney on Thursday.

SCORES IN BRIEF PAKISTAN: 198 for 4 (Hafeez 71, Shafiq 38, Raja 23, Akmal 22 not out, Tanveer 17 not out; Jarvis 1-30, Price 1-35, Chibhabha 1-17) ZIMBABWE: 113 (Chibhabha 28, Taylor 10, Masakadza 12, Coventry 30; Hafeez 4-10) Result: Pakistan won by 85 runs. Man-o-f-the-match: Mohammad Hafeez.

Inter president Massimo Moratti denied his coach's position was under threat, but he got rid of Rafael Benitez last season despite the Spaniard having just led Inter to victory in the Club World Cup. Gasperini admitted time is of the essence: 'I'm well aware of the club's confidence is not unlimited, we have to get results quickly because if we don't our problems will grow.'

FIXTURES (1300 GMT unless stated) Saturday Cagliari v Novara (1600), Inter Milan v Roma (1845) Sunday Atalanta v Palermo (1030), Bologna v Lecce, Catania v Cesena, Lazio v Genoa, Parma v Chievo, Siena v Juventus, Udinese v Fiorentina, Napoli v AC Milan (1845)

U-16 AFC qualifiers

Indian GP to cash in on cricket fatigue

Premier Div kabaddi

Puyol angry at critics

The Bangladesh U-16 team suffered a second successive defeat in the AFC U-16 Qualifiers after conceding a 2-0 loss to Palestine in Iraq yesterday.

AFP, New Delhi

After years of steady patronage, corporate India is showing signs of cricket fatigue and the country's maiden Formula One race next month looks like being the immediate beneficiary.

profile cricket tournament like the Champions League Twenty20. Airtel has turned its back on a title sponsorship midway through a five-year deal they had landed in 2009, reportedly for 40 million dollars.

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Air Force, Fire Service and Dhaka Wanderers Club won their respective matches in the Premier Division Kabaddi League at the Kabaddi Stadium yesterday.

AFP, Barcelona



Barcelona captain Carles Puyol has hit back at critics who insist that the European and Spanish champions are struggling to maintain their high standards of last season.

FIXTURES Saturday Sporting Gijon v Valencia, Granada v Villarreal, Mallorca v Malaga, Barcelona v Osasuna, Sevilla v Real Sociedad Sunday Getafe v Rayo Vallecano, Zaragoza v Espanyol, Atletico Madrid v Racing Santander, Levante v Real Madrid, Athletic Bilbao v Real Betis

injuries to Andres Iniesta and Alexis Sanchez. In contrast, there is a mood of optimism in the Real Madrid camp. 'We want to compete for all the competitions and I don't want to pick between the league and the Champions League over which would be more important,' said Xabi Alonso, as his team prepare to face Levante.

Lax federation sees SCB withdraw sponsorship

Nayar's company will supply the official intervention and support vehicle to the Buddh International Circuit, helping transport marshals around the track.

Cricket, however, is certain to remain the number one sport in the world's second most populous nation for a long time, something Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone has acknowledged.

Bin Hammam loses appeal

The Catalan giants face Osasuna on Saturday after drawing 2-2 against Real Sociedad, despite having gone two goals up, before they squandered a 2-1 lead over AC Milan in the Champions League by conceding a goal during injury time despite dominating the match.

Having won three straight Spanish leagues, as well as two Champions Leagues in three years, the spotlight has been on whether Barca can retain the same ambition but Puyol is angry they are being judged so quickly.

The Standard Chartered Bank postponed its sponsorship from the School Chess tournament following their displeasure with the preparation of the tournament which was supposed to get underway from September 23.

The 2010 World Championship enjoyed a 527 million global television audience but Formula One is seen in India as a niche sport, followed primarily by youngsters.

"The appeal made by Mohammed bin Hammam has been rejected and the decision of the FIFA Ethics Committee confirmed. The sanction of being banned from taking part in any kind of football-related activity (administrative, sports or any other) at national and international level for life has therefore been maintained."

AFP, Zurich

Ousted Asian football chief Mohamed bin Hammam on Thursday lost his appeal against a lifetime ban from football, world governing body FIFA announced.

"We are fine and we are not listening to what people are saying from outside the club. The team was frustrated and it left a bad taste in the mouth (after the Milan game) but we have already turned the page. Before we were not the best and now we are not the worst," said Puyol.

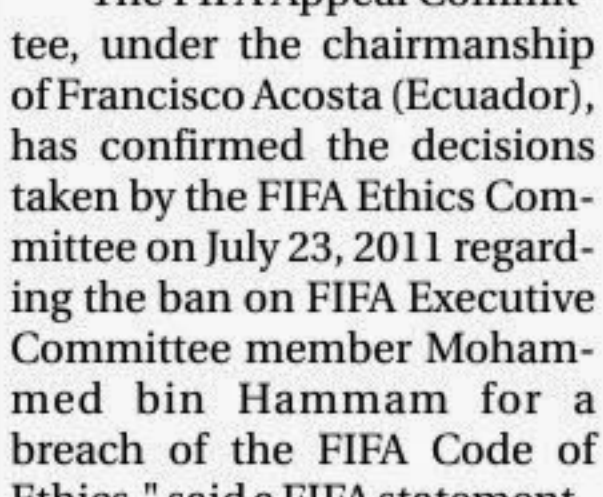
The form of Roberto Soldado, who has scored four of their five goals, has been crucial for Valencia. They now play pointless Sporting Gijon while Betis are away to Athletic Bilbao who are still finding their feet under new coach Marcelo Bielsa.

"We are not happy with the preparation of the tournament as the Bangladesh Chess Federation have not sent their proposal till September 16 and we let them know that we have decided to postpone our sponsorship until we get the details of the tournament proposal," said Bitopi Das Chowdhury, head of Corporate affairs of SCB yesterday.

Formula One is very relevant at this juncture when we are trying to transform our business and trying to be a global brand. It fits very well with our overall strategy.

"We will never catch cricket, I'm quite sure about that, but we've got to try our best to do that. I'm sure eventually we will get very close," He told reporters in Delhi last month.

AFP, Berlin



Werder Bremen boss Klaus Allofs insists his side are hunting points rather than German league leaders Bayern Munich as they prepare to take on Nuremberg on Saturday.

Bremen are second in the Bundesliga behind Bayern as both sides have won four of their first five games this season, but Bayern already have a massive goal difference of 15 after last Saturday's 7-0 hammering of Freiburg.

FIXTURES Saturday Bayer Leverkusen v Cologne, Hamburg v Borussia M'Gladbach, Nuremberg v Werder Bremen, Hoffenheim v VfL Wolfsburg, Hertha Berlin v Augsburg, Kaiserslautern v Mainz 05 Sunday Hanover 96 v Borussia Dortmund, Schalke 04 v Bayern Munich

their way and they manage to beat bottom side Hamburg, who have yet to claim a win this season after four defeats and a draw. Striker Paolo Guerrero will miss the Gladbach game with a knee injury, while South Korean teenager Heung-Min Son is back in the squad and the 19-year-old striker may start.

Standard Chartered Bank, which has a good reputation of sponsoring sports at school level, has been sponsoring the school chess for the last 13 years so far but this time the international bank was forced to backtrack from its position following the reluctance of the ad-hoc committee led by Mokaddesh Hossain.

Shaun saves Australia

FROM PAGE 16

partner, Phil Hughes, had fallen for a second-ball duck, bowled off the inside edge by Suranga Lakmal. Ponting, returning to the side after missing the second Test due to the birth of his second child, survived two confident appeals for catches behind the stump before he had reached double figures.

Holistic

FROM PAGE 16

After the four practice matches against the U-21, the U-22 team will reach BKSP to play another five matches against the U-19 team from September 28.

Azharuddin's son dies

CRICINFO, New Delhi

Former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin's son Ayazuddin has died in Hyderabad, succumbing to injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident on Sunday.

Werder flirtd with relegation at the end of last season and managing director Allofs said the club is more interested in getting back into the Champions League for next year, rather than chasing Bayern.

Gladbach are waiting on goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who broke two teeth in training on Thursday.

SPORTS POLL WEEKLY QUESTION

Who should be the Bangladesh cricket captain? Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast your vote

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Television replays confirmed there were no edges off the bat and Ponting grew in confidence to help Marsh take the score to 63-2 by lunch.

Ponting fell in the afternoon session when he attempted to drive a wide ball from Lakmal and only managed to edge an easy catch to wicket-keeper Prasanna Jayawardene.

Assistant coach Golam Jilani informed that Illievski was putting emphasis on tactical matters and the coach was keen to work on the mistakes the players made during the practice match.

Siddikur

FROM PAGE 16

superb nine-under-par in the second round to climb up to the second position with an overall score 134, just one stroke behind leader Chan.

Bremen have injury concerns in midfielders Tim Borowski and Marko Marin who are both carrying leg injuries and Bremen's ex-Nuremberg midfielder Mehmet Ekici is expected to come into the starting line-up.

League leaders Dortmund are at Hanover on Sunday and will again be without suspended midfielder Mario Goetze.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 235 for 5 (Marsh 81, Ponting 48, Hussey 63 not out, Haddin 21 not out; Lakmal 2-39, Eranga 2-52) SRI LANKA: Dilshan (captain), Paranavitana, Sangakkara, M Jayawardene, P Jayawardene, Mathews, Lakmal, Welegedara, Thirumane, Herath, Eranga.

BCB Cup

FROM PAGE 16

Mahmudullah Riyad. Bangladesh team will play GP-BCB National Cricket Academy team tomorrow at the same venue.