

Time's up for Iain O'Brien

CRICINFO

Iain O'Brien, the former New Zealand seamer, has retired due to a chronic back injury.

O'Brien, 35, made his international debut against Australia at Christchurch in March 2005 but after that series didn't play another Test for two seasons.

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Nadal happy despite defeat

AFP, Melbourne

Rafael Nadal said the Australian Open final was one of the best losses of his career after he went down fighting in a six-hour epic against Novak Djokovic.

In a dramatic finale to the year's first major, Djokovic outlasted Nadal 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5 in 5hr 53 min, the longest grand slam final in history.

The match started on Sunday evening and finished in the early hours of Monday morning as the world's two best players battled to a standstill in front of a disbelieving crowd.

"Physically it was the toughest match I ever played," Nadal said early on Monday.

"I think we played a great tennis match. It was I think a very good show in my opinion," he added. "I enjoyed being part of this event and this match. That's the truth.

"I wanted to win, but I am happy about how I did. I had my chances against the best player in the world today." Nadal said he was pleased he had been able to match Djokovic physically and mentally, something he had not been able to do in 2011 when the Serb beat him six times in succession.

BFF wants

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As per FIFA and AFC instructions, DFAs lost their voting right after the 2008 election although there is a dispute about the abolishment of the DFAs' voting rights as no BFF members could clarify whether the constitutional amendment was approved by the AGM or EGM.

Instead, they blamed the then president SA Sultan for the move.

Besides discussing this issue, the meeting decided to seek help from sports minister Ahad Ali Sarker to start the Sylhet BKSP as a football academy. It also extended 16 BFF coaches' contracts and appointed a new coach for the women's team.



Men's singles champion Novak Djokovic signs a supporter's t-shirt a day after his victory in the final of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday.

Novak's greatest win

AFP, Melbourne



australian open The Grand Slam of Asia-Pacific

Novak Djokovic savoured the greatest win of his career, despite being left with bleeding toes and "outrageous" pain in his record Australian Open final win over Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic's thrilling five-set win over the Spaniard, the longest grand slam final at 5hr 53min, makes him just the fifth player in open history to win three straight grand slam titles.

"You're in pain, you're suffering, you know that you're trying to activate your legs, you're trying to push yourself another point, just one more point, one more game," he said afterwards.

"You're going through so much suffering your toes are bleeding. Everything is just outrageous, you know, but you're still enjoying that pain."

The 24-year-old said his Wimbledon triumph last year had been special, but the Melbourne win was even better.

"This one I think comes out on the top just because of the fact that we played almost six hours is incredible, incredible," he said.

Djokovic added that now felt ready for a shot at the French Open, the next major on the calendar, where his best result is reaching the semifinals.

"So I want to do well and I want to get to my first final at least in Paris. I have never been in the final there and I have a feeling that I'm ready this year to achieve that," he said.

Djokovic's 2011 season left commentators short of superlatives as the Serb won a total of 10 titles and went on a 41-match winning streak,

until Roger Federer beat him in the semifinals in Paris.

"I'm prioritising grand slams this year, as every year, and Olympic Games. I think that's one of my highest goals," he said.

"That doesn't mean of course that I'm not going to prepare well and perform my best in the other tournaments. It's just that, you know, the grand slams matter the most."

Djokovic said as he cast around for answers as to how he could beat Nadal, whom he has now beaten in the past three grand slam finals, he even offered up a prayer. "It paid off, I guess," he joked.

But the Serb, said he would now take time to savour his triumph before he returns to the tennis courts to prepare for the rest of the season.

"I'm not really concerned about the rest of the year

how physically I'm going endure and all of that.

"It's just the start of the year. I'm going to have some weeks off now, and I'm going try to enjoy this victory as much as I can.

"Then back to office, you know, back to work, preparation. There is much that awaits for me, but I definitely should enjoy the present moment."

Carlos to end

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Carlos signed for the Dagestan outfit Anzhi Makhachkala in February last year in a late-career move, charming the Russian public with his usually smiling demeanour and an apparent genuine interest in the country.

But in June last year he walked off the field before the final whistle after a fan threw a banana at him, an apparent racial attack.

Pakistanis spurred by scandal

REUTERS, Karachi

Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq has attributed his team's current success to his players' determination to restore pride in their country after the 2010 corruption scandal.

Misbah's team took an unbeatable 2-0 lead in their three-match series against England with a 72-run victory in Abu Dhabi on Saturday.

The win followed series victories over New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka after Misbah succeeded Salman Butt at national captain. Butt and his opening bowlers Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif were jailed for arranging to bowl deliberate no-balls in the 2010 Lord's test against England.

"After the spot-fixing scandal the players discussed things and we unanimously agreed that we need to just do well," Misbah told the Geo News channel on Sunday.

"I am happy that we have been playing with lot of focus, dedication and discipline. The players have lots of faith in each other and their abilities to perform under pressure."

Tamim in IPL

FROM PAGE 16

list comprises of 108 capped players and 36 uncapped players. Tamim Iqbal was a notable addition, and will be the only Bangladesh player in the auction, at a reserve price of 50,000 dollars.

South Africa (19) and Sri Lanka (18) had the highest number of international players in the auction list. Indian interest in the auction will be limited to the eight players, all capped. Seven of them were part of the Kochi franchise last year while the eighth one is the fast bowler VRV Singh.

The preliminary list had 25 Zimbabwe internationals, but only seven of them made it to the final draft.

Ctg beat Rangpur



SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong defeated Rangpur by four wickets on the second day of their National Under-18 Cricket Competition three-day match at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday.

Put in to bat, Rangpur scored 123 runs in their first innings, to which Chittagong replied with 150. Rangpur fared better in their second innings, scoring 180 runs and setting a target of 154. Chittagong got home riding on Saddam Hossain's innings of 88 not out. Chittagong's Jashimuddin was adjudged man-of-the-match for match figures of 11-108.

In the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore the match between Barisal and Rajshahi seemed evenly poised, with Barisal leading by 147 in their second innings with three wickets in hand after the second day's play. Batting first after having lost the toss, Barisal

were all out for 194 in their first innings, but managed to secure a 52-run lead by dismissing Rajshahi for 142. Barisal were 95 for seven at the close.

Dhaka Metro seemed to have the upper hand by the slightest of margins against Khulna at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra. Put in to bat Dhaka Metro scored 171 runs in their first innings. In reply Khulna declared on 186 for nine. Starting the second innings 15 runs in arrears, Dhaka were placed comfortably at 106 for three when stumps were drawn, with a lead of 91 runs.

BKSP were poised to win their match against Sylhet at the Faridpur Stadium. Asked to bat first, Sylhet scored 199 runs in their first innings. BKSP then declared their innings 59 runs behind on 140 for nine. Sylhet however failed to capitalise on their healthy lead and stumbled to 85 all out in their second innings. Needing 144 runs for victory BKSP made a strong start to their second innings and were 56 without loss at close of play.

Ziaur flays Abahani

FROM PAGE 16

who made a quickfire 50. Syed Rasel and Mohammad Wahid took two wickets each.

In reply, Imrul Kayes held the Mohammedan innings together as wickets fell at the other end. The left-hander made 86 off 106 balls with the help of four boundaries and a six but could only string together one decent partnership, a 68-run fifth wicket stand with Wahid, who made 36.

Nayyar Abbas was the wrecker-in-chief, taking six for 24 while Sanjamul Islam picked up three.

JAMAL-BIMAN Mushfiqur Rahim smashed 106 off 116 balls with the help of six boundaries and three sixes as Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club scored 245 in 49.5 overs at BKSP.

The par-score was still too much for Biman, who were bowled out for 206 runs in 47.1 overs, thanks mainly to left-arm spinner

Arafat Sunny's 4-18 beginning with the new ball. SCORES IN BRIEF OLD DOHS: 257 all out in 50 overs (Ziaur 91, Rameez 42; Trego 3-67, Sunny 2-32).

ABAHANI: 249-9 in 50 overs (Riyad 74, Manhas 65; Ashraf 4-50, Enamul 2-27). Result: Old DOHS won by eight runs.

GAZI TANK: 273-8 in 50 overs (Nasir 92, Mominul 50; Rasel 2-43, Wahid 2-77). MSC: 223 all out in 49.3 overs (Imrul 86, Wahid 36; Abbas 6-24, Sanjamul 3-46). Result: Gazi Tank won by 50 runs.

SHEIKH JAMAL: 245 all out in 49.5 overs (Mushfiqur 106, Shuvo 36; Fawad 2-41, Rezaul 2-42).

BIMAN: 206 all out in 47.1 overs (Fawad 74, Ehsanul 47; Sunny 4-18, Dhruv 2-34). Result: Sheikh Jamal won by 39 runs.

Monty deeply disappointed

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Left-arm spinner Monty Panesar expressed his disappointment on Monday over England's humiliating 72-run defeat against Pakistan in the second Test, saying he would swap his six wickets for his team's win.

England, playing their first Test series as world number one, went down to Pakistan's spin duo of Abdul Rehman (6-25) and Saeed Ajmal (3-22) after being set a tricky 146-run target at Abu Dhabi Stadium on Saturday.

Panesar set them on track for a series-levelling win by taking 6-62 in Pakistan's second knock.

Pakistan now have an unsailable 2-0 lead with the third and final Test starting from February 3 in Dubai. Pakistan won the first Test by ten wickets, also playing in Dubai.

Panesar, who was playing his first Test since Cardiff in the 2009 Ashes, said he was ready to swap his wickets for England's win.

AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCE ODI SQUAD

Marsh axed, Haddin rested



AFP, Sydney

Struggling opener Shaun Marsh was Monday left out of Australia's one-day squad to face India and Sri Lanka, while wicketkeeper Brad Haddin has been rested in favour of Matthew Wade.

Australia go into the tri-nations series buoyed by a 4-0 Test whitewash of India, and with players such as newcomer Peter Forrest showing strong form in the domestic Twenty20 league and Sheffield Shield.

Marsh, 28, put in a poor performance during the Test series, scoring just 17 runs after

returning to the side following a back injury.

"Shaun Marsh is obviously disappointed with his own form in recent weeks and is out of the side, but remains in our thinking for the future while he works at state level," said national selector John Inverarity.

"As they say, class is permanent but form can be temporary."

Inverarity said Haddin will be rested after "a heavy program of Test cricket" in favour of debutant Wade.

"The workload for a wicketkeeper-batsman is rigorous and resting him for the start of the series will refresh him for coming international commitments, while also giving us a chance to look at Matt Wade at this level," he said.

Australia have not named a vice-captain for the first three games because Haddin is resting and all-rounder Shane Watson is still unavailable due to injury.

Brett Lee is included in a bowling attack which also features Ryan Harris and Xavier Doherty.

Australia and India kick off the tri-nations tournament on February 5 with a match at the MCG.

Australian squad: Michael Clarke (captain), Dan Christian, Xavier Doherty, Peter Forrest, Ryan Harris, David Hussey, Mike Hussey, Brett Lee, Mitchell Marsh, Clint McKay, Ricky Ponting, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, David Warner.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 "Zounds!" 5 Off-bracketed word 8 Scruff of the neck 12 Actress Spelling 13 Fed. med. agency 14 Hebrew month 15 Mixed drink 17 "The other white meat" 18 Party staple 19 Brownish-yellow shades 21 Characteristic 24 Spruce or sycamore 25 Batting champ Aaron 26 Aviation time-saver, maybe 30 "I'll take that as —" 31 Principal force 32 Fish eggs 33 Trachea 35 Baseball team 36 Libertine 37 Man of morals? 38 Honor 41 Have bills 42 Old Italian money 43 "Hush!" 48 Slender 49 Weeding tool 50 Maui feast 51 "Desire Under the —" 52 Helios 53 Formerly, formerly 10 Kitten's call 11 31-Down members 16 — for tat 20 Highlander 21 Dissolve 22 Hindu royal 23 In due time 24 Hosiery hue 26 Victories 27 Eye part 28 "—, Nanette" 29 Profound 31 Fraternal grp. 34 Reveries 35 Thread partner 37 Overwhelm 38 Otherwise 39 Window ledge 40 Decorate 41 Admitting customers 44 Debtor's letters 45 "— Town" 46 Existed 47 Eccentric

Solution time: 21 mins.

Grid for crossword puzzle solution.

LOCAL snippets Primary School Football Hapur Primary School of Sylhet and Khordo-Kor Registered Primary School of Rajshahi finished third in the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Tournament and Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament by beating their respective rivals at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The final of both tournaments will be held at the same venue today. Haripur defeated Koyla Govt Primary School of Satkhira 2-0 in the place-deciding match of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup with Mostafa Kamal and Mamun Ahmed striking one goal each in either half. In the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup, Khordo-Kor beat Nischintapur Registered Primary School of Sylhet 4-3 in the tie-breaker after the regulation time ended in a goalless draw at the same venue. 2nd Div Football Euro Famous Club and Little Friends Club won their respective matches of the Destiny 2nd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. Euro Famous defeated Eastend Club 2-0 with Faisal and Russel scoring one goal each. Little Friends Club came from behind to defeat Bangladesh Boys Club 2-1. Stalin and Rabbi scored one goal apiece for the winners while Sumon netted the lone goal for the losers. School Football Four more schools qualified for the district-level competitions of the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament after clinching the Upazila titles at different venues yesterday. Gafargaon Islamia Govt High School defeated Shibganj Bidash High School 1-0 in the Gafargaon Upazila final, Palashhat High School defeated Fulbaria Pilot High School 5-4 in the tiebreaker of the Fulbaria Upazila final, Dhanikhola Usmania High School beat Dhanikhola High School 1-0 in the Trishal Upazila final and Sonarbangla High School defeated Bhaluka Pilot High School 4-2 in the tie-breaker of the Bhaluka Upazila final. Kho Kho The semifinal line-up of the Destiny Group 5th National (men's) Kho Kho Championship was completed yesterday when Bandarban, Dhaka, Natore and Quantum Foundation won their respective matches at the Volleyball Stadium adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Dhaka will play against Bandarban while Quantum will take on Natore in today's semifinals.

CRYPTOQUIP Y IYZ'X XZEYQOJZ, TQEPIZ AYZJ MEDV ADQGZ Y ZD ADGGZ U VQOJZ UP IDGXQTPEPT Y MPHQGP UPPHQQP. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: VERY DETAILED FORMAL TALK ABOUT THE METHODS OF MAKING BEVERAGES BUBBLY: AN AERATION ORATION. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals B