



US tennis star Venus Williams plays a backhand return during her Family Circle Cup victory over Jelena Jankovic of Serbia in Charleston on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Junaid to return to Lancashire

AFP, London

Pakistan international Junaid Khan will return to Lancashire in June, the English county champions revealed on Thursday.

The 22-year-old starred predominantly in last year's domestic T20 competition, taking 12 wickets including a career best of three for 12 against Derbyshire.

"Junaid showed last season his ability to win a game from almost any situation," head coach Peter Moores said.

Pietersen

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they were telling me what it was.

"It was just timing. No drama, no issue."

Match referee Javagal Srinath of India confirmed that Pietersen had been warned twice for time-wasting under Law 42.10.

A third offence by any of the England batsmen would have resulted in five penalty runs being awarded to Sri Lanka.

Oxenford explained the ruling and emphasised the International Cricket Council (ICC) was not trying to discourage switch-hitting.

"The ICC think switch-hitting is an excellent innovation," the Australian official said.

"But when the bowler sees intent on the part of the batsman prior to delivering the ball and stops, we can get a stalemate situation.

"The bowler won't deliver because he wants to change his field if he thinks the batsman is going to switch-hit.

"When we get to that situation the way to move forward is to give the batsman an informal warning, then a formal one for time-wasting.

"If it happens again, it's a team warning under time-wasting by the batting side and it's an automatic five-run penalty."

England, who lost the first Test in Galle, need a win to draw the two-match series and retain their number one Test ranking.

Eng on top

FROM PAGE 16				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lakmal	22	4	81	0
Prasad	23	8	63	1
Herath	53	9	133	6
Dilshan	20	4	73	2
Randiv	34.3	4	107	1
SRI LANKA: Second innings				
Prasad not out	0			
Thirimanne not out	0			
Extras: (lb-4)	4			
Total: (For no loss in one over)	4			
To bat: Dilshan, Sangakkara, M a y a w a r d e n e , Samaraweera, Mathews, P Jayawardene, Randiv, Herath, Lakmal.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	1	1	0	0

Venus on song

Tennis

AFP, Charleston

In a clash of former world number ones, Venus Williams toppled seventh-seeded Jelena Jankovic 7-5, 6-0 on Wednesday to reach the third round of the WTA's green clay Charleston tournament.

Jankovic had won her last four meetings on clay against Williams, but once the American heated up in the wake of a first-set rain delay, the Serbian couldn't stop her.

Jankovic served for the first set at 5-4, but Williams broke and never looked back.

By the time she won the second set she had reeled off nine games in a row, capping the match with a backhand winner down the line.

Third-seeded Marion Bartoli of France found the going much tougher, but persevered to get past Russian Vera Dushevina 6-2, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 in a second-round match lasting more than three hours.

Bartoli, who snapped Victoria Azarenka's 26-match unbeaten streak when she downed the world number one en route to the semi-finals at Miami last week, was playing her first match after enjoying a first-round bye.

She next faces Slovenia's Polona Hercog,

a 6-3, 6-2 winner over American Varvara Lepchenko.

Russian Nadia Petrova, the 13th seed, saved two match points en route to a 2-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-2 victory over US veteran Jill Craybas, a qualifier.

"Compared to my previous match in the first round I didn't play as well, but I have to give credit to Jill, she played very well today," said Petrova, who next faces eighth-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. "She wasn't making any errors from her side, so I had to take control of the match and move her around, and I think I made too many errors."

Sixth-seeded German Sabine Lisicki, who claimed her first WTA Tour title at Charleston in 2009, rallied to beat Czech Andrea Hlavackova 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Lisicki next faces Yaroslava Shvedova, who upset 12th-seeded Belgian Yanina Wickmayer 6-2, 7-6 (7/2).

In other matches, Galina Voskoboeva of Kazakhstan defeated Argentine qualifier Paula Ormaechea 6-2, 6-3 to set up a third-round clash with Samantha Stosur.

New Zealand's Marina Erakovic, seeded 17th, beat Georgia's Anna Tatishvili 7-5, 6-3 to advance to a meeting with fifth-seeded American Serena Williams.

Aamer warns against fixing

Cricket

AFP, London

Disgraced Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Aamer has appeared in an official video from the Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) warning players of the dangers of corruption.

The five minute video has been posted on the official ICC website.

Highly-rated 19-year-old left-arm paceman Aamer was released from a UK jail in February after serving half of a six-month sentence for his part in the spot-fixing scandal during the Lord's Test between England and Pakistan in 2010.

His former teammates

S a l m a n B u t t a n d

Mohammad Asif are serving sentences of 30 and 12 months respectively, handed down by a British court in November, after the trio were found guilty of corruption and receiving illegal money.

The ICC also banned all three players, with Aamer receiving the minimum five-year punishment after he was found guilty of deliberately bowling no-balls as part of a plan orchestrated by Butt and agent Mazhar Majeed, also now serving a jail sentence.

Last month Aamer gave a broadcast interview in Urdu to ex-England captain Michael Atherton where he said former Pakistan skipper Butt had betrayed their friendship by luring him into the scandal.

However, in the ACSU

video Aamer, speaking in clear English, made no specific references to other cricketers but instead issued a general warning.

"Prison is a bad place for everyone," he said. "Don't make the mistakes which I did. I was stupid I didn't tell anybody because I didn't have coverage...If someone comes to you go straight to team management and ICC team."

Aamer said his "life had been ruined " in a couple of hours as a result of being put under pressure by senior players to deliberately bowl no-balls at Lord's although he accepted his mistake.

"I always knew this was cheating at cricket but I was under pressure but I accept my mistake," he added.

"When I was in ICC hearing, I knew I was totally embarrassed. I wanted to tell the truth but I didn't have courage...When the police put me in handcuffs I was literally crying."

There is no suggestion Aamer's participation in the ACSU video will lead to a reduction of his ban, which was imposed by an independent disciplinary tribunal.

But it can be seen as part of the "rehabilitation" that outgoing ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat has said the bowler should undertake while banned.

"I would prefer that the starting point should not be about whether we (ICC) could reduce the sentence," Lorgat said last month.

"If Mohammad Aamer stands up and delivers a message of caution about this murky world, people are going to sit up and listen," the South African added.

"That is one example of rehabilitation."

'Complete vindication' for Cairns

AFP, Canberra

Former New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns feels "complete vindication" and is ready for a new role in cricket after winning a libel action against former Indian Premier League boss Lalit Modi.

In the first libel action heard in England against a post on Twitter, Cairns, 41, was last month awarded 90,000 pounds (\$143,000) damages after the judge dismissed fixing allegations levelled against the cricketer by Modi.

Modi was also ordered to pay an additional 400,000 pounds in costs.

Cairns said he was "never going to back down" against one of international cricket's most powerful figures.

In an interview published in The Canberra Times, Cairns said the case had consumed his life and ostracised him from the cricketing community.

Cairns said he had to fight to restore his reputation, adding that match fixing were some of the "dirtiest words in sport".

"I took it as far as I could go to clear my name and that's what I had to do," Cairns told the newspaper.

"It was a long hard road to get that complete vindication."

Tube map ruffles Dutch feathers

REUTERS, London



Inspired by the 2012 Olympics, London transport chiefs created a special version of their underground railway map by replacing stations with the names of sporting

greats but they left out one of the most famous of all.

While present-day athletes like Usain Bolt were well represented among the 361 names, Fanny Blankers-Koen was missing.

Known as the 'Flying Housewife' because she had two children, the Dutch runner became the first female to win four golds in a single Olympics at the 1948 London Games.

"With 361 tube stations and many thousands of athletes to choose from unfortunately there were always going to be some sportspeople who would not make it on to the map," said Transport for London (TfL) marketing director Chris Macleod.

"However we apologise if any offence has been caused by the omission of Fanny Blankers-Koen who was clearly a remarkable athlete. We are speaking to the publisher of the map to ensure she features in the next

reprint," he said in a statement.

The Royal Dutch Athletics Federation had pointed out to Olympics chief Sebastian Coe that Blankers-Koen was worthy of a place.

Victoria Station has been renamed after sprinter Bolt while Manchester City footballer Carlos Tevez is the new Edgware Road having won a gold medal with Argentina in 2004.

The late U.S. track and field runner Florence Griffith-Joyner also features instead of Embankment.

Alex Trickett, a former editor at BBC Sport, created the map along with his former colleague David Brooks.

"David and I used to work together in New York many years ago and spent a boring amount of time talking about sports lists and where great athletes ranked alongside each other," Trickett told Reuters. "It's what we love."

He said Blankers-Koen was mistakenly left off the map.

"She is a legend, she should be on the map," added Trickett. "There are other ones where it's a judgement call but when we saw that Fanny Blankers-Koen wasn't on the map it wasn't one to argue.

"It was a case of hands up - we messed up."

Levi delivers Mumbai win

AFP, Chennai



Premier League (IPL) opening match on Wednesday.

The South African, who smashed the fastest T20 century off 45 balls against New Zealand at Hamilton in February, cracked three sixes and six fours on his IPL debut as Mumbai surpassed Chennai's total of 112 with 19 balls to spare.

Levi, 24, put his team on course for victory with a 69-run stand for the first wicket with Sachin Tendulkar (16) in the Twenty20 tournament opener, watched by a sizeable crowd in Chennai.

Levi was caught by Australian Doug Bollinger at long-off soon after completing his half-century with a six off West Indies seamer Dwayne Bravo.

Tendulkar retired after being struck on the fingers by a Bollinger delivery, but New Zealander James Franklin (25 not out) and Indian Ambati Rayudu (18 not out) steered their team home.

Mumbai's win was set up by left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha, pacemen Kieron Pollard of the West Indies and Sri Lankan Lasith Malinga who bagged two wickets apiece to restrict Chennai to a modest total.

Suresh Raina top-scored for Chennai with a brisk 26-ball 36 on a difficult pitch.

The 76-match tournament, facing a test of its popularity, has nine teams playing each other on a home-and-away basis before the top four sides qualify for the playoffs. The final will be played on May 27.

The IPL, which began in 2008 as a high-octane mix of glamour, entertainment, rich purses for players and the excitement of

slam-bang cricket, has had a difficult ride over the past four years.

It has been hit by infighting, problems with teams, criminal investigations and corruption allegations.

Its founder Lalit Modi, who was suspended from the league in 2010, is holed up in London as he faces Indian government and the Board of Control for Cricket in India charges of misappropriation of funds.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: 112 in 19.5 overs (Raina 36; Pollard 2-15, Malinga 2-16, Ojha 2-17)

MUMBAI INDIANS: 115-2 in 16.5 overs (Levi 50, Franklin 25 not out)

Result: Mumbai Indians won by eight wickets.

Complicating

FROM PAGE 16
by too much bureaucracy and too little action.

It is simply a crime the way all the clubs involved have been suffering for the dispute between just three participants -- Abahani, Mohammad and Victoria.

The cricket lovers have been crying out for professionalism in the board's activities for long but the way affairs have been running under the current leadership has led many to believe that the board, though having made some progressive moves, has taken several backward steps.

The current crisis surrounding the League has once again underlined the importance of the board being run by professionals and why there is need of a powerful and strong-willed chief executive officer (CEO) to run the show.

When Mustafa Kamal took charge of the board, he made promises of professionalism but more than two years later his activities paint an altogether different and bleaker picture.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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17 — do for

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28 Distance

32 Nap

34 Crazy

36 Avis

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62 Last

63 Answer

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69 Old card

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