



Zimbabwe seamer Richard Muzhange (R) tries to stop a ball driven by Nasir Hossain (not in picture) as Mahmudullah Riyad sets off for a run during the opening game of the T20 triangular series at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

British GP Lorenzo's

REUTERS, Silverstone

Spain's Jorge Lorenzo won the British Grand Prix on a Yamaha on Sunday to stretch his lead over Casey Stoner to 25 points in the MotoGP World Championship. Australian Stoner, the reigning world champion who had started on the front row, had to settle for second with Spanish Honda team mate Dani Pedrosa following a close third in his slipstream.

"I was fifth or sixth (after the start) and I didn't want to make mistakes so I had to wait a little bit," said the Spaniard, who ended the race doing a lap of honour with the Spanish flag fluttering from his shoulder.

This victory is fantastic, the season we are doing is just perfect, we can't ask for more."

Lorenzo has 140 points to Stoner's 115 and Pedrosa's 101.

British rider Cal Crutchlow, ignoring hospital advice to race with a broken ankle from the back of the grid after missing Saturday's qualifying, took an extraordinary sixth place for Tech3 Yamaha through gritted teeth.

Spaniard Alvaro Bautista was on pole position for the first time in his MotoGP career on the Gresini Honda but finished fourth after losing out at the start to American Ben Spies, Lorenzo's team mate.

Stoner then took charge of a race that had the home crowd as gripped by what was going on at the back of the field as at the front.

With 14 laps to go, Crutchlow had passed Italian Valentino Rossi's Ducati for 10th place while Lorenzo moved up to third and then passed Spies for second before putting pressure on Stoner.

After duelling at close quarters with the Australian, Lorenzo made a move stick with nine laps remaining and pulled away.

Start league

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Club, Azad Sporting Club and Bangladesh Sporting Club expressed their solidarity with Usha KC's decision and threatened to boycott the league if it is not resumed by June 19.

When BHF general secretary Khaza Rahmatullah was drawn attention about the demand of the five clubs, he said that the federation has not deferred the league rather the clubs at the meeting together decided to defer the league by a week as the alternative Indian umpire is supposed to arrive here on June 24.

"We proposed to them to start the league with a foreign and a local umpire but Abahani and Mohammedan and later Sonali Bank too did not want to play without foreign umpires and all clubs present at the meeting decided to start the league from June 25," said Rahmatullah.

Bell nicked that one

Cricket

AFP, Southampton

Ian Bell smashed a century to lead England to a 114-run win over West Indies on Saturday, but admitted that he had enjoyed a double dose of good fortune.

Bell made 126 as England beat the tourists under the Duckworth-Lewis method in a rain-affected series opener at the Rose Bowl to go 1-0 up in the three-match series ahead of Tuesday's clash at The Oval.

The 30-year-old's innings, the cornerstone of England's 288 for six, came just a day after he'd to have stitches inserted into a chin wound after being struck in the face while batting in the indoor nets.

He was fortunate then and was left thanking his good luck a second time on Saturday when the West Indies were adamant he was out, caught behind for 23 off Ravi Rampaul.

But English umpire Richard Kettleborough rejected the paceman's raucous appeal.

Bell admitted he'd nicked the ball but, with few current batsmen following the example of retired Australia great Adam Gilchrist in 'walking', West Indies' Dwayne Smith said the incident was just part of the game.

"I was quite lucky that all the precautions from the backroom staff yesterday [Friday] got me in a good

frame of mind," said Bell of his freak injury.

"It had gone quite deep to the bone. It was weird, because it hurt more by my ear really rather than where it actually hit me."

Bell, asked if he'd edged the ball on 23, admitted: "Yes."

However, Smith -- whose 56 opening in place of the injured Chris Gayle was a rare highlight for the tourists -- said: "There was a sound but the umpire said 'not out', so we can't do anything about that."

Bell, opening the batting following the one-day retirement of Kevin Pietersen, marked his return to the side with just his second hundred in 109 matches at this level.

But it was his second at the Rose Bowl, having made 126 not out against India in 2007.

Bell finished England's 2-0 Test series win over the West Indies with an unbeaten 76 in rain-marred drawn third Test at his Warwickshire home ground concluded Monday.

"I felt I was in pretty good nick by the end of that Test series, so it was nice to go at the top of the order and play some proper cricket shots. I didn't try to slog -- which probably in the past I've been guilty of doing," he said.

England are the world's top-ranked Test nation but they've struggled by comparison in one-day cricket and exited last year's World Cup after a 10-wicket quarterfinal thrashing by Sri Lanka in Colombo.

However, this was their fifth successive one-day win

after a 4-0 series sweep of Pakistan which saw Alastair Cook, their captain in 50-over cricket, score back-to-back hundreds in Abu Dhabi before Pietersen followed up with two consecutive centuries in Dubai.

"We have talked about our game plan and it's certainly that one of the top four goes on and scores runs," said Cook, out for nought on Saturday before Bell and Warwickshire colleague Jonathan Trott

Muktis

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minute before the break when winger Nasir Chowdhury entered the box from the right and cut it back for the unmarked Mithun, who tapped in from the six-yard box.

After resumption, Muktijodha created three more scoring chances but all of them went in vain in the face of some stubborn defending and sloppy finishing from Mithun.

The pint-sized forward however made amends as he sealed the match with his sixth goal of the league after connecting a low cross from Nasir Chowdhury in the stoppage time of the second half.

"We did not have six to seven regular players, some of whom are with the national U-22 team in Nepal while others have been nursing injuries. Besides, there was a lack of spirit in the team. Those were the reasons for our defeat," said Sheikh Jamal coach Abu Yousuf.

Portugal join Germany Tigers

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Strangely, scoring the opening goal seemed to have inhibited the Dutch, and they were cowed even further by Ronaldo's equaliser.

So often scorned for his international displays, Ronaldo was a man transformed, and after working Stekelenburg with an audacious dipping shot from 35 yards, he crashed a header narrowly wide from a corner.

The Madrid man was not so forgiving when Nani returned the favour in the 74th minute, checking inside sharply to send van der Wiel sprawling and then calmly beating Stekelenburg at his near post. Ronaldo missed what could have been his hittrick in the dying moments when his scorching right-footer came off the post.

At Lviv Germany's Joachim Loew opted for Bayer Leverkusen's Bender at right-back for Bayern Munich's Jerome Boateng, who was suspended after picking up a yellow card in their 2-1 win over Holland last Wednesday.

Likewise, Denmark's Morten Olsen brought Jakob Poulsen into the midfield for veteran forward Dennis Rommedahl, who damaged his hamstring in their 3-2 defeat to Portugal.

The Germans started at pace and only a superb block by Denmark goalkeeper Stephan Andersen from a Thomas Mueller low drive on six minutes denied the Germans.

Germany got the break through when Mueller fired his pass across the Denmark goal and Gomez let the ball roll for man-of-the-match Podolski to drill his shot home on for his 44th international goal.

It was 1-1 at the break, but midfielder Jakob Poulsen, in for hamstring injury-victim Rommedahl, clipped the post with his shot on 51 minutes.

The game's tempo dropped noticeably in the second-half with Germany's midfield star Mesut Ozil looking flat as the Danish defenders constantly thwarted the Germans.

Podolski was brought off with 25 minutes left as Leverkusen's Andre Schuerle was given his chance and he soon tested Andersen with a shot.

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he fell, Zimbabwe had enough momentum to even go for a 200-plus total but very efficient bowling by Abdur Razzak and Elias Sunny kept them down to a 150-plus score.

Abul Hasan, the rookie paceman, also impressed with two wickets, one of which was a great yorker to get rid of Stuart Matsikenyeri.

Bangladesh now take on South Africa at the same ground tomorrow.

SCORES IN BRIEF
ZIMBABWE: 154-6 in 20 overs (Masakadza 62, Sibanda 7, Taylor 38, Ervine 0, Matsikenyeri 18, Chigumbura 7 not out, Cremer 11, Utseya 2 not out, Mashrafe 1-33, Razzak 0-20, Hasan 2-37, Sunny 1-30, Ziaur 0-16, Riyad 0-15).

BANGLADESH: 143-5 in 20 overs (Tamim 38, Ashraf 22, Ziaur 23, Mushfiqur 5, Riyad 14, Nasir 29 not out, Mashrafe 2 not out, Mpofo 2-20, Jarvis 1-32, Chigumbura 0-11, Muzhange 1-33, Cremer 0-24, Utseya 1-18).

Result: Zimbabwe won by 11 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Hamilton Masakadza.

Cilic clinches Queen's title

AFP, London

Croatia's Maric Cilic took the Queen's Club title in controversial fashion on Sunday as Argentina's David Nalbandian was disqualified in the second set of the final for kicking an advertising board into a line judge.

Nalbandian, who won the first set 7-6 (7/3), had just lost his serve to fall 4-3 down in the second set when he reacted with a frustrated kick at the board, which was just in front of line judge Andrew McDougall.

McDougall rolled up his trouser leg to reveal a bloody gash and he appeared to remonstrate with Nalbandian.

Play came to a halt and after a delay of several minutes, ATP supervisor Tom Barnes came onto the court to speak to umpire Fergus Murphy and Nalbandian.

It soon emerged that the 30-year-old's petulant behaviour had been punished with disqualification "due to unsportsmanlike behaviour". Chris Kermode tournament director, explained on BBC: "It's one of those really unfortunate things."

"It was an unbelievable final. Best match all week. Nalbandian ran across in frustration and kicked a panel which went flying across and caught a line judge. He's quite seriously injured. A violation was called immediately..."

"Nalbandian clearly regrets what he's done. It's unfortunate. These things happen."

"To have the match ending this way is disappointing, but we're under the governance of ATP rules."

"David feels terrible. It was a pure accident."

Siddikur

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exploits. The second place finish also lifted Siddikur to sixth in the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

The straight-hitting Siddikur, who achieved his career first top-10 in the Queen's Cup two years ago, was disappointed his putter went cold on the back nine. He missed a short par putt on 10 and another possible birdie chance on 11 but his title hopes eventually ended with the bad miss on 15.

"I'm really disappointed. I was almost there. Unfortunately, at the last moment, I don't know what happened. On 15, I don't know what happened. I was gone after that. I couldn't make birdie," said Siddikur.

"I was trying to be aggressive but my ball striking was a bit off even though I was in the lead after 13 holes. I just played my own game, fairway, greens, fairway, greens, but messed up on the greens."

DRS under scanner again

Cricket

ANI, London

The controversy surrounding the application of the umpire decision review system (DRS) in the game of cricket at the international level refuses to die down.

Though, it is well known that Indian cricketers have expressed serious doubts about the DRS, and often objected to its use in international fixtures, other countries such as Australia and England have championed its use, and have at times turned a blind eye to its ineffectiveness, and benefited from decisions.

The latest to benefit was star England batsman Ian Bell, who after scoring a sublime 126 against the West Indies in the first one-day international at Hampshire on Saturday, revealed how he nicked the ball behind when on 23, but DRS gave him the benefit of the doubt, and allowed him to fire England to one-day glory.

In March this year, South Africa's Test captain Graeme Smith had praised the role of television referrals and the DRS in international cricket.

"I did read a report that there were issues with the set-up of the cameras, which obviously isn't ideal, and there has been a lot of scepticism about the last bit of the ball-tracking. But DRS has become an integral part of the game, it's great for the fans and I can't imagine playing without it," Sport 24

quoted Smith, as saying then. "It was designed to take away the shocking decision and it's done that. I'd like to see it play a prominent part in international cricket," he added.

His statement came after the DRS was criticised for inaccuracies in the recent series between South Africa and New Zealand.

In May, the International Cricket Council (ICC) held its annual review at Lord's and discussed the application of the DRS at its two-day meeting.

The annual review considered the reliability of the technologies used and the extent of improvements made, the correctness of the current DRS Leg Before Wicket (LBW) procedures and the impact on the game in the balance between bat and ball during the meet.

The committee, headed by former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd also discussed an extensive range of other issues during the meeting, including Twenty20 strategy and the format of ODI cricket.

Various other issues like bringing more innovations in the limited-over format, concept of day-night Test matches, and illegal-bowling actions were also discussed during the meeting.

The recommendations of the committee will go to the chief executives' committee and the ICC board for approval.

The next meetings of those committees are set for Kuala Lumpur during the ICC's annual conference week from June 24-28.

Haas triumphs in Halle

Tennis

AFP, Halle

Germany's Tommy Haas defeated second seed Roger Federer 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 to win the ATP grasscourt tournament here on Sunday.

Playing in front of his home fans, the 34-year-old added to his triumph here three years ago to take his 13th ATP title.

Swiss great Federer, the second seed, was seeking a sixth win at this Wimbledon warm-up event having booked his seventh final ticket with a straight sets semifinal win over unseeded Russian Mikhail Youzhny.

Wildcard Haas, a former world number two, secured his place in the climax with defeat of compatriot Philipp Kohlschreiber.

After claiming the title Haas said: "This has been one of the best weeks of my career, but I reckon I won't really appreciate what's

happened until this evening. "If someone had said to me beforehand that I was going to beat Roger Federer, probably the best player of all time, I would have thought they were mad!"

Federer was magnanimous in defeat, saying: "Tommy has performed well throughout, I'm thrilled for him."

This was Haas's third career win over Federer after beating his better-fancied rival at Halle in the semifinals in 2005 and 2006, against 10 defeats, the last in the semifinals at Wimbledon in 2009.

Federer broke to lead 3-1 in the opening set but proceeded to lose three successive games to find himself trailing 4-3.

Haas went on to clinch the set on a winning serve in 50 minutes.

In the second set Haas broke to lead 5-4 and serve for the match, winning out when Federer put a return long.



German Tommy Haas holds the winner's trophy after beating Swiss Roger Federer in the Halle Open singles final in Halle yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Houston acronym
5 Chic, 1960s-style
8 Greenish-blue
12 "Zounds!"
13 Bobby
14 Robust
15 Clothing
17 Vicinity
18 Son of Poseidon
19 Muffet's bugaboo
21 Umenyiora of the NFL
22 Back talk
23 Doo follower
26 Conclusion
28 Sordid
31 "Sad to say, ..."
33 Workout site
35 — gin fizz
36 Canoe material
38 Listener

DOWN
1 Mr. Gingrich
2 Gel in a Petri dish
3 Ganges garment
4 Supplement
5 Lost in thought, maybe
6 Eye, poetically
7 Frock
8 Long recliners
9 "Get rid of junk" event
10 Sheltered
11 Approach
16 Got up
20 Faux —

23 Slight touch
24 Foreman foe
25 Construction protection
27 Coloring agent
29 Extinct bird
30 Nevertheless
32 "Nothing but perception," said Plato
34 Ripens
37 That woman partner
39 McNally
42 Transfer
44 "Crouching —, Hidden Dragon"
45 Antitoxins
46 Drop heavily
48 Poi base
49 Send forth
50 Lair
53 iPhone download

Solution time: 21 mins.

ISIS BRA FAIL
MONO LED RUDE
AUCTIONS AREA
MPH DAD SCAMP
JET JUT
PAPUA BARISTA
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PLACKET GNATS
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CRYPTOQUIP

DGXNH CNAKLXYO AY RAWH
VKOXYO DGXLH DKLHV, WKYB
AC LGH OTBR DHVH CATYM
OTXNLB AC VKCL-MAMOXYO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE HE CAN READ AND WRITE, BUT IS SUFFERING WITH THE FLU, I GUESS HE'S AN ILL LITERATE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O