

Star SPORT

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Maria launches Sugarpova

Russian tennis icon Maria Sharapova, third seed for next week's US Open, has launched her own brand of sweets.

The 25-year-old, who won this year's French Open and was a silver medallist at the London Olympics, has called the line "Sugarpova" and includes sweets in the shape of a tennis ball.

"My main goal was to make candies that will fit my personal taste and the tastes of girls with similar preferences," she was quoted as



Ton up Anamul sees off Pakistan

India-Australia final tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

A blitzkrieg hundred from captain Anamul Haque helped Bangladesh Under-19s to sign off their campaign in the ICC U-19 World Cup with a five-wicket victory over Pakistan Under-19s at the Endeavour Park 2 yesterday.

With the success, Bangladesh finished seventh in the tournament. It was their second best finish after they finished fifth in Sri Lanka in 2006 but it was Anamul who hogged the spotlight in the tournament by hitting his second ton. Bangladesh lost to South Africa but beat Sri Lanka and Namibia in the group stage to reach the Cup competition where they suffered defeat against the holders and finalist in the fifth position play-off match.

Back to the match Anamul smashed five fours and eight sixes during his electrifying 128 off 112 balls innings as Bangladesh reached the 236-run target with 22 balls and five wickets to spare. Anamul shared a 179-run partnership in the second wicket stand with opener Liton Das, who made 53, to make sure Pakistan finished eighth; their worst finish in nine events.

It was Anamul's second century of the tournament after he had scored 101 in the tournament opener against Sri Lanka and he was also the first batsman in the tournament to score two centuries. He finished the event with 365 runs from six matches at an impressive average of 60.83.

Anamul was dismissed with 19 runs still required from 11 overs and two more wickets fell after Anamul but Bangladesh had enough batsmen left to cruise to their win.

Earlier Pakistan had been sent in by Bangladesh and got away to a disappointing start, slumping to 33 for 3 in the eighth over as Dewan Sabbir picked up two early wickets. Mohammad Nawaz (82) led the recovery from Pakistan and there were also useful contributions from Faraz Ali (43) and Shahid Ilyas (44), but their 235 for 8 was insufficient against Anamul and his colleagues.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka defeated Afghanistan by seven wickets to win the Plate Championship final at Allan Border Field in Brisbane.

Batting first after winning the toss, Afghanistan scored 194 for nine in 50 overs and in its chase, Sri Lanka cruised to victory in 39 overs.

This was Sri Lanka's first Plate Championship title while for Afghanistan, it was an



ANAMUL HAQUE ... 128

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Ravichandran Ashwin delivers a ball against New Zealand during the second day of the first Test in Hyderabad on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Women keep losing

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Women's Cricket team continued their losing streak in the tri-nation ODI series in Dublin when they suffered a four-wicket defeat to Pakistan Women's Cricket team at the Railway Union Cricket Club on Thursday.

Bangladesh lost to the same opponents by 42-run in their first match of the series.

Bangladesh scored 161 runs for eight wickets in 50 overs. Sukhtara Rahman scored team highest 37 off 110 balls.

Nida Dar claimed three wickets and Qanita Jalil took two wickets.

In reply, Pakistan reached the target with 164 runs for the loss of six wickets in 49.3 overs.

Sana Mir top scored with 29 runs as Rumana Ahmed captured two wickets.

Bangladesh was scheduled to play against hosts Ireland, against whom they suffered a 62-run defeat in the first match, in their last match yesterday.

Rain ruins 1st Eng-SA ODI

REUTERS, Cardiff

The first one-day international in the five-match series between England and South Africa scheduled for Cardiff on Friday was abandoned after 5.3 overs because of rain.

England were 37 for no wicket with Ian Bell on 26 from 18 balls including two sixes. The match had been reduced to 23 overs a side.

Just days after South Africa dethroned England as the world's top-ranked Test side, following a 51-run win at Lord's, they arrived in Cardiff knowing a 2-2 draw or any kind of series victory in this five-match contest would see them replace their hosts at the summit of the one-day standings too.

Booters get to training

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

Two months after the completion of last season, country's top booters return to action today as the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is set to launch an off-season training camp to keep the national footballers in action ahead of three international engagements next year.

Bangladesh are scheduled to take part in the 25th U-18 International Tournament in Russia from January 4-14 while the national team are scheduled to play AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers from March 2-17 and Bangladesh U-23 team, the defending champions of the SA Games, will be participating in the upcoming SA Games in India, even though the date of the tournament has not been finalised yet.

In the past, the football's governing body had sent national teams to different regional, AFC and FIFA tournaments with a short period of training which resulted in catastrophic outcome. The national team

was eliminated from group stage of the last SAFF Football Championship without a single victory while the U-22 team exited the AFC U-22 Asia Cup from group stage after being humiliated 4-1 by minnows Nepal.

But this time the BFF plans to give the booters more time to prepare themselves both physically and as a team, in order to survive throughout the season. The BFF has called up 81 booters for training, who will be split into four groups and play competitive matches among themselves in the next ten days before the phase-2 camp with 30 booters will get underway in September 5 before the season's curtain-raising tournament -- Federation Cup -- gets underway on September 24.

The Salahuddin-led committee had arranged such off-season training camps for the national booters once before in 2009 under the guidance of Brazilian coach Edson Silva Dido and Bangladesh crossed the hurdle of AFC Challenge Cup Qualifiers subsequently before making it to the semifinals of the SAFF Football Championship held on

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Ashwin, Ojha spin a web

Cricket

AFP, Hyderabad

Ravichandran Ashwin grabbed three quick wickets as India gained the upper hand on the second day of the opening Test against New Zealand in Hyderabad on Friday.

Off-spinner Ashwin took 3-30 and left-arm spinner Pragnan Ojha bagged two wickets as New Zealand struggled to reach 106-5 in their first innings at stumps in reply to India's 438.

The tourists now need 133 more runs to avoid a follow-on with five wickets in hand. James Franklin was unbeaten on 31 at stumps with Kruger van Wyk who had yet to open his account.

Cheteshwar Pujara earlier cracked a solid 159 and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni hit 73 as India added 131 runs to their overnight total of 307-5 before being bowled out at the stroke of tea.

Ashwin and Ojha got a wicket in their opening overs, removing Brendon

McCullum (22) and Martin Guptill (two). McCullum hit three fours in his 27-ball knock.

Dhoni pressed Ojha into the attack after only seven overs of pace and the spinner struck with his third delivery when he had McCullum caught by Virat Kohli in the covers.

Ashwin got a wicket with his first delivery when he had Guptill caught by Kohli at backward short-leg before removing captain Ross Taylor (two) in his next over, caught by the same fielder.

New Zealand's batting woes against spin continued in the last session when the floodlights were on as Daniel Flynn (16) was trapped leg-before while attempting to sweep Ashwin.

The Indian off-spinner's three wickets came in his opening five overs for just six runs.

Ojha got his second wicket when he had Kane Williamson (32) caught by Virender Sehwag in the slips.

Dhoni and Pujara earlier consolidated India's position with a 127-run

stand for the sixth wicket, while Ashwin contributed 37 runs with five boundaries.

Pujara, who replaced retired Rahul Dravid at number three, and Dhoni fell to off-spinner Jeetan Patel in the afternoon session, but not before strengthening their team's position.

The 24-year-old Pujara, playing only his fourth Test, stepped out to attempt a big shot but miscued it and Franklin took a well-judged catch running back from mid-on. He smashed one six and six fours in his 306-ball knock.

The Indian captain also fell playing an attacking shot, caught by Doug Bracewell at mid-off after hitting one six and six fours in his 25th Test half-century.

New Zealand took the last five Indian wickets in the afternoon, with Patel and left-arm paceman Trent Boult being the successful bowlers.

Patel finished with 4-100 and Boult with 3-93.

Dhoni, who was 29 not out on

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PHOTO: AFP FILE

A file photo shows American cyclist Lance Armstrong riding his way at the Tour de France. The 7-time winner will be stripped of his titles and banned from cycling for life, US Anti-Doping Agency chief Travis Tygart said on Thursday.

Armstrong to lose titles

Cycling

AFP, Austin

Lance Armstrong will be stripped of his seven Tour de France titles, the US Anti-Doping Agency said, after the cycling icon announced he would no longer fight the drug charges that have stained his legacy.

USADA said late Thursday that Armstrong will be banned for life for using performance-enhancing drugs to win cycling's most prestigious race from 1999 to 2005 -- charges that Armstrong has vehemently denied.

Armstrong, while maintaining his innocence, earlier announced his decision after a US federal court dismissed his lawsuit against USADA this week, paving the way for the agency to continue its case against him.

USADA said in June it had evidence that Armstrong used banned substances, including information supplied by former teammates.

Armstrong accused USADA of an "unconstitutional witch hunt", as he declined to pursue procedures that could have taken his case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"Today I turn the page," Armstrong said on his website. "I will no longer address the issue, regardless of the circumstances."

"I will commit myself to the work I began before ever winning a single Tour de France

title: serving people and families affected by cancer, especially those in underserved communities."

The 40-year-old, who battled to the top of his sport after overcoming life-threatening cancer, said he was growing weary of the fight and the strain it had put on his personal and professional life.

"There comes a point in every man's life when he has to say 'enough is enough.' For me, that time is now," he said, adding: "Finished with this nonsense."

USADA chief Travis Tygart told AFP that Armstrong would be stripped of all his results dating back to August 1, 1998, adding in a separate statement that the situation was a "sad day" for sport.

There now needed to be a change to the "win-at-all-costs culture," expressing hope that future crackdowns would create a "level playing field" for all competitors, he added.

The agency maintains that Armstrong used banned substances, including the blood-booster EPO and steroids, as well as blood transfusions dating back to 1996, and said 10 of his former team-mates were ready to testify against him.

Armstrong argued that USADA was usurping the jurisdiction that should belong to world cycling's governing body, the International Cycling Union (UCI).

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