

Bangladesh women's football team striker Aumraching Marma gets past an U-19 team player during their practice match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The national team won 4-0 with Marma scoring a brace.

Australia win against brave Afghanistan

AFP, Sharjah

Former world champions Australia defeated a battling Afghanistan team by 66 runs in the first-ever limited overs international between the two sides on Saturday.

Australia did well to reach 272-8 in their 50 overs despite some hiccups in the middle overs before overcoming a tough mid-innings resistance by Afghanistan who in the end were bowled out for 206 in 43.5 overs.

SCORES IN BRIEF AUSTRALIA: 272 for 8 (Wade 75, Clarke 75, M Hussey 49;

Sadiq 2-22, Nabi 2-50) AFGHANISTAN: 206 all out (Asghar 66, Nabi 46, Naib 22; Pattinson 3-46, Starc 4-47) Result: Australia won by 66

runs. Junaed

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Cup against India and Pakistan. So hopefully the selectors will remember that," he

But his eventual selection may well hinge on the BCB XI's upcoming tour of Trinidad and Tobago which will start from August 30, where they will play three T20s. Junaed is hopeful of positive results for the team citing the recent successes in the Asia Cup and also the moderately successful tours of Zimbabwe and Europe.

"We've developed a winning habit in the recent past which we will have to maintain ahead of the World Cup," said Junaed.

His prime competitor for a place in the starting 11 is Mohammad Ashraful who has also been in decent form recently in T20s -- making useful contributions at the top of the order in the tours of Zimbabwe and Europe. But Junaed, who has a strike rate close to 133 compared to Ashraful's strike rate of 115, believes his higher strike rate 'will play to my favour when it comes to getting selected in the starting 11'.

BFF training

FROM PAGE 16 national camp in next 24

hours. "We are disappointed because of their (Sheikh Jamal) actions. However, we will be observing the matter closely and then take the necessary action," said Nabil, who is also vice president of Bangladesh

Football Federation. The camp will also miss seven players, who have been suffering from different injuries. Defenders Ariful Islam, Nasirul Islam, midfielder Imon Babu, Arman Aziz, Shahedul Alam, Touhidul Alam and Saikat Bhoumick have been ruled out of the 10 days camp.

However, other players had their first practice session under their respective coaches at the Military Museum ground and the BFF astroturf.

'Don't cry for me'

Cycling

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Lance Armstrong was back on his bike on Saturday, urging his supporters not to 'cry' for him a day after the United States Anti-Doping Agency's (USADA) decision to strip his seven Tour de France titles and ban him for life. In his first public appearance since

announcing he would no longer fight doping charges brought by USADA, Armstrong finished second in a 36-mile mountain bike race in Aspen, Colorado, five minutes behind a 16-year-old rider, Keegan Swirbul.

Wearing sunglasses and black and gold riding gear adorned with sponsors' logos, Armstrong appeared unfussed by the media throng that had travelled to the mountain resort amid concerns his legacy has been irrevocably tarnished.

"Nobody needs to cry for me. I'm going to be great," Armstrong told reporters.

"I have five great kids and a wonderful lady in my life. My foundation is unaffected by all the noise out there.

"I think people understand that we've got a lot of stuff to do going forward. That's what I'm focused on and I think people are supportive of that. It's great to be outhere," he said.

Despite giving up the fight against the charges, Armstrong has maintained his innocence and railed against what he says is an

unfairwitch-hunt. The Texas-born cyclist, who famously beat cancer and whose foundation Livestrong has raised hundreds of millions of dollars in the fight against the disease, has retained major sponsors and enjoyed the backing of many key

Others, including WADA chief John Fahey, say his failure to contest his charges can only mean he is a drug cheat who has defrauded the cycling tour, his rivals and millions of sports fans for over a decade.

The Armstrong case has yet to rest, with cycling's global governing body, the International Cycling Union, demanding USADA hand over its evidence. The Court of Arbitration for Sport could ultimately have a final say on his guilt or innocence.

The retired Armstrong said he was no longer concerned about racing.

"It's more about staying fit and coming out here and enjoying one of the most beautiful parts of the world, on a beautiful day, on a very hard course," said the 40-year-old.

"Some may say you're a little sick to spend your free time doing stuff like this. I had a good time."

Armstrong remained the 'seven-time Tour champ' to teenager Swirbul. "I'm so psyched right now," he said. "I wanted to win this race so bad.' Donations to his foundation on Friday were

up more than 20 times their daily average, Livestrong staff said, and Armstrong received positive crowd support in Colorado. "The people like the people who are standing

around here or on the course, they voiced their opinion in the last 48 hours and are going to support us," Armstrong said, adding that the future of cycling was in good shape.

"It's cool to get your butt kicked by a 16year-old when you know he has a bright future," he said.

"There are a lot of good young guys. Cycling is going to be fine."

US Open Kim's last

Tennis

AFP, New York

Three-time US Open winner Kim Clijsters will conclude her career on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts where she enjoyed her greatest glory and she intends to go out as a champion. Clijsters won the 2005, 2009 and 2010 titles

in her only appearances at the Grand Slam event since losing in the 2003 final and she said Saturday that she plans to stretch her 24-match Open win streak before saying good bye.

"Of course it's to try and win. My mindset is not any different," Clijsters said. "I haven't played many matches or tournaments this year and physically I believe I can do it.

"I've trained hard. I'm in maybe the best shape that I have been in. I'm not worried physically that I'm not ready to do it."

Something else the 29-year-old Belgian is not ready to do is give up retirement and more time as a wife and mother no matter how well she does at the US Open.

"It's a feeling you need to have if you want to keep having those adrenaline rushes," Clijsters said. "I just know for me the time is right."

Clijsters, seeded 23rd, has anything but an easy draw in her final bow after missing last year with an abdominal muscle strain.

She opens against US wildcard Victoria Duval and could face China's Li Na in the third round, defending champion Samantha Stosur in the fourth round and top seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the quarterfinals.

"I'm very excited to be back. This place is magical for me," Clijsters said.

"When I start Monday I want to be playing well so I'm focusing on that for now. I'll be as ready as I can't be and not look too far ahead.

I'm focused on just trying to play my best." Clijsters, whose only other Grand Slam title came at the 2011 Australian Open, has struggled with hip, ankle and abdominal injuries since losing to Azarenka in this year's Australian Open semi-finals.

She bounced back with a fourth-round run at Wimbledon and a quarter-final effort at the London Olympics, falling to Maria Sharapova, but generally has rested ahead of the hardcourt demands.

"The surface is more grinding. It's harder on the body as well," Clijsters said. "Physically and mentally it's a tough one to deal

'Could have been better' Isner's 2nd

middle-order's batting did not help much either. But overall in a row performance was not bad. Anamul was brilliant with the bat in the tournament, and so was the opener Liton Das (262 runs). This team has a good future."

Meanwhile, two of the spinners -- Al Amin and Nayeem Islam were reported by the umpires for suspect bowling actions and did not return with the team as they were to undergo tests to ascertain whether their bowling action is legal. Sarwar said that it was part of a new campaign by the ICC to report any suspect action during tournaments and that the two bowlers will not be found to have illegal action.

"They are not the only two bowlers who have been reported. Players from other teams have been reported as well. I don't think they will be found with an illegal bowling action (bending the elbow more than 15 degrees)."

The two spinners are expected to return today along with

the assistant coach.

AFP, Winston-salem

John Isner won his second straightWinston-SalemATP title Sunday, surviving three match points en route to a 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (11/9) victory over second-seeded Tomas Berdych.

Isner, seeded third, successfully defended a title for the second time this season to go into the US Open starting Monday at Flushing Meadows on a roll.

Women's football

SPORTS REPORTER

The national women's football team posted an easy 4-0 win over BFF U-19 women's team in one of three practice matches ahead of next month's SAFF Women's Football Champions at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Sabina Khatun struck twice while Suinu Pru Marma and Aumraching Marma netted one goal each for the women's team who have been training over one month but they could hardly impress and had to wait for half an hour to break the deadlock against the Teenagers under the floodlight.

Suin put his side ahead in 32nd minute availing a back-pass from Mirona while Sabina doubled the lead two minutes into the second half with a solo effort. Aumraching made it 3-0

in the 64th minute before Sabina sealed the match scoring the fourth goal in the 70th minute

"As the forwards were a little bit shaky as they played the first full-length match but I believe they will learn from the mistakes and do well in future," said coach Golam Rabbani Choton.

Ashwin stars

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in the first innings, but the duo failed to trouble McCullum and Williamson.

India had dismissed New Zealand for 159 in the first innings on Saturday after posting 438.

The second and final Test starts in Bangalore on August 31.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings 438 (Pujara 159, Dhoni 73, Kohli 58; Patel 4-100, Boult 3-

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 159 (Franklin 43 not out; Ashwin 6-31, Ojha 3-

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (over

night 41-1) Guptill Ibw b Ojha McCullum Ibw b Yadav Williamson c Sehwag b Ojha Taylor b Ashwin Flynn Ibw b Ashwin Franklin c Sehwag b Ashwin Van Wyk Ibw b Ashwin Bracewell c Kohli b Ojha Patel not out Boult c Sehwag b Ashwin Martin Ibw b Ashwin Extras: (b-1, lb-10) Total: (All out in 79.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-98, 3-105, 4-138, 5-142, 6-145, 7-148, 8-160, 9-164. 48

Bowler Zaheer 32 Yadav Ashwin 54 Raina Result: India won by an innings and 115

Man-of-the-match: Ravichandran

Ashwin.

India crowned U-19 champions

PTI, Townsville



Unmukt Chand led from the front with a magnificent hundred as India Under-19 lifted their third World Cup title after beating formidable

wickets in the final on Sunday. This was India U-19s first triumph after Mohammed Kaif and Virat Kohli led their respective teams to victory in 2000 and 2008

defending champions Australia by six

editions respectively. Courtesy a magnificent unbeaten 111 by Unmukt and his unbroken partnership of 130 runs with glovesman Smit Patel, India overhauled a competitive target of 226 on a bouncy strip with 14 balls to spare.

It was one of the best centuries one could have witnessed at the junior level as Unmukt hit seven fours and as many as six sixes during his 130-ball knock.

He completed his century with a six over extra cover off Alex Gregory but the celebrations were very muted. The skipper knew that the job was only half done.

Once Smit, who hit an effective 62, slogswept off-spinner Ashton Turner towards deep mid-wicket for a four a number of Indian supporters rushed to the ground along to celebrate with the team.

Though four wickets were lost in the chase, it never looked like an uphill task for the Indians, who were subdued in the middle overs but accelerated towards the end to get to the target with ease.

After Prashant Chopra was out chasing a

without troubling the scorers, Unmukt and in-form batsman Baba Aparajith (33) took the attack to the opposition. The duo added 73 runs for the second

delivery down leg side of Mark Steketee

wicket playing the Aussie pace trio of Steketee, Joel Paris and Gurinder Sandhu with ease.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA U-19S: 225 for 8 (Bosisto 87 not out, Head 37, Turner 47; Sandeep 4-54) INDIA U-19S: 227 for 4 (Chand 111 not out, Patel 62 not out, Aparajith 33) Result: India Under-19s won by 6 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Unmukt Chand. Man-of-the-series: William Bosisto.



Members of the India Under-19s team are ecstatic as they rejoice with the trophy after beating Australia in the ICC U-19 World Cup final in Townsville yesterday.

Kvitova tunes up with New Haven title

Tennis

AFP, New Haven

Former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova claimed her second title of the season by beating Maria Kirilenko 7-6 (11/9), 7-5 in the final of the WTA Tour's New Haven Open on Saturday.

The 22-year-old second-seeded Czech earned her ninth singles title by hammering seven aces and winning 56 percent of her first-serve points in the two-hour, sevenminute match.

The hardcourt tournament served as a tune-up for the US Open which begins on Monday in New York.

Kvitova, who won Wimbledon in 2011, outlasted Kirilenko in a marathon opening set that took more than an hour. She then

rallied from a 5-2 deficit in the second by winning five consecutive games.

point -- I wasn't thinking about the score,' Kvitova said. "In the end it was pretty close and I'm really glad I won it." "After that, I was down physically, with-

"In the tie-break I just played point by

out energy," she said. "It seemed like I was walking, not running. I made a lot of mistakes and went 5-2 down -- but then I tried not to think about my shots or tactics and started putting the ball into the court more." Saturday's final came just weeks after the

two met in the quarter-finals of the London Olympic women's singles tournament, where Kirilenko won in straight sets.

"Even though I lost I still feel positive," said Kirilenko, who was hurt by seven double faults. "I played really well this week. I played a good match today. Unfortunately, I was

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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