

2 SL cricket fans commit suicide

PTI, Colombo

Two Sri Lankan youth unable to put up with the national team's defeat in the ICC World Twenty20 cricket final against the West Indies have committed suicide, police said on Monday.

17-year-old Ashan Lakshitha, who returned home after watching the match on a giant screen at city's Galle Face promenade, was found hanging on a mango tree early this morning.

Similarly, 21-year-old Mahendran Suresh from the central district town of Hatton hanged himself in his bedroom.

Sri Lanka lost to West Indies last night by 36 runs, leaving a trail of disappointed fans.

This was Sri Lanka's fourth World Cup final loss (two 50 overs and two T20s) across two categories.

Nadir Shah

FROM PAGE 16

In another video, Gallage agreed to leak information on the pitch, weather, toss, and the playing elevens of India and Pakistan ahead of their World Twenty20 warm-up match on September 17 for 50,000 rupees. He was the fourth umpire in the game.

Shah, who has been a frequent visitor to India reportedly to visit relatives, was learnt to be in Mumbai, but could not be reached for comments after repeated attempts to contact him at his local number in India.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) media committee chairman Jalal Yunus, when contacted declined to comment on the issue saying, "We have also heard about this, but we cannot comment on the issue without looking into it further."

Meanwhile the International Cricket Council (ICC) has requested India TV to hand over the video footage.

Local snippets

FROM PAGE 16

In a bid to strengthen the BFF Match Fixing Committee, the football's governing body had requested the ACC and the Home Ministry to send one representative to its committee but the ACC recently expressed their inability, informed BFF acting general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag. However, the Home Ministry had yet to respond to BFF request. The existing BFF Match Fixing Committee has currently comprised of three members.

Wali to captain

Abahani

National defender Wali Faisal will captain four-time professional football league champions Abahani in the coming season after the team management appointed him captain yesterday.

Abahani football manager Satyajit Das Rupu informed that they might play today's first match of Federation Cup against Jessore DFA Ekadash without any foreign recruits as their four African players Awudu Ibrahim, Samad Yussuf, Twum Frank and Lucky Paul got Bangladesh visas yesterday and will join the Sky Blues before their second match against Rahmatganj MFS on

Cricket Bolt's

FROM PAGE 16

don't play much now. The only time I play now is with my brother," said the runner, who played junior cricket before turning to track and earlier this year flirted with playing in Australia's domestic Twenty20 league.

"If I wasn't in athletics I would probably have a career somewhere else in sport," he added.

Players train

FROM PAGE 16

"Considering the Tigers' recent performance in the T20 world cup, we thought it would be a good idea to start training early so that the players can be better prepared for the West Indies tour," said Jalal Yunus, Chairman, Media Committee, BCB.



Players of Eden College celebrate with the trophy after beating Siddheswari Girls' College in the final of the Delta Life Women's College-University Handball Tournament at the Shaheed Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Marlon's peak

AFP, Colombo



Marlon Samuels will leave Sri Lanka on Monday having finally emerged from the shadows of a controversial career to revive West Indian cricket with a splendid all-round display.

Samuels starred with bat and ball as the West Indies ended a 33-year wait for a world title, when Darren Sammy's men upset Sri Lanka by 36 runs to win the World Twenty20 in Colombo on Sunday night.

Samuels smashed 78 off 56 balls to help the West Indies to a modest 137-6 and then took 1-15 from four steady overs of off-spin as the hosts were shot out for 101 in front of 35,000 stunned home fans.

Samuels hit six sixes and three fours to lift his team to 105 runs in the last 10 overs after they were reduced to 32-2 from the first 10.

"This is a moment to cherish and cherish forever. It means the world to us," the 31-year-old Jamaican said after being named man of the match.

Samuels has endured a turbulent 12-year career since his debut in 2000, having seen his bowling action questioned before being suspended for two years in 2008 for alleged links with bookmakers.

"The career has been up and down,"

Samuels admitted. "There have been a lot of tough times. I dealt with them in simple ways and tried to let them pass.

"Being under pressure on a cricket field is nothing compared to what I've been through off the field.

"But as my mentor always said to me, everything that happened to me in life is because I am important. I'm not someone that will ever give up. I never say die.

"The person that I am deep down inside is the reason why I am still here playing cricket. I have a family that believes in me. If outsiders don't, it doesn't really matter to me."

The win on Sunday gave the West Indies their first world title since the 50-over World Cup triumph under Clive Lloyd in 1979, although they won the invitational Champions Trophy in England in 2004.

Samuels said the victory would turn the tide for Caribbean cricket and win back fans who had deserted the team in bad times over the last decade.

"This is a great achievement for past cricketers and for the present cricketers who have bonded together to form a strong unit," he said.

"Around the world, people still love to watch West Indies cricket. We will celebrate as long as possible and enjoy the moment. The sky is now the limit for us."

Razaq in hot water

ANI, Karachi

Pakistan all-rounder Abdul Razaq is likely to face disciplinary action from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) due to his outburst against captain Mohammad Hafeez after being dropped from the World Twenty20 semifinal against Sri Lanka.

Razaq created a controversy by blaming Hafeez for his exclusion from the match, which Pakistan lost by 16 runs, describing the decision as 'illogical and taken only by Hafeez', reports the Express Tribune.

According to a PCB official, action against Razaq was likely even though he is not a centrally-contracted player.

"Razaq was bound by PCB rules. Even if a player is not contracted he has to follow instructions. His statement may invite sanctions. The feedback from coach and manager will also be taken," the official said.

WI party

FROM PAGE 16

A hotel employee who declined to be named said the party went on until the early hours of Monday, with armed guards providing security and keeping fans away.

"I'm feeling strong, wonder which wrestler I should take in a wrestling match?" tweeted Gayle, who has 300,000 Twitter followers. He finally signed off on Monday morning, saying he had to pack.

Gayle reinforced his party-boy image earlier in the tournament when police bodyguards broke up a party in his hotel as he and fellow players entertained three British female fans.

Some downhearted Sri Lankan players were also spotted at the Cinnamon Grand after the final as they tried to come to terms with defeat in the biggest cricket game ever held in the island nation.

Kohli the only Indian in T20 World XI

Cricket

PTI, Colombo

Virat Kohli was the lone Indian cricketer to find a place in the ICC World Twenty20 men's XI of the tournament, which was dominated by champions West Indies and runners-up Sri Lanka.

Kohli scored 185 runs runs in India's five matches.

In the women's XI, Poonam Raut was the only Indian to make the cut. Suresh Raina was named 12th man of the men's team.

Finalists Sri Lanka and West Indies contributed a total of five players to the men's team with Mahela Jayawardene named as captain, the ICC said in a statement.

In the women's team, finalists Australia and England provided nine players with again the losing captain in the final, Charlotte Edwards, selected to lead the team.

Edwards was also named yesterday as the women's player of the tournament.

Chosen by a group of experts, the team was aimed at being suited for Sri Lankan conditions on the basis of performances in the tournament only. Statistics were used but were not the sole basis for selections.

In all, there were three players from beaten finalists Sri Lanka and two from champions West Indies while Australia, England, New Zealand and Pakistan were also represented in the 12-member men's squad.

Players who were considered included AB

de Villiers and Dale Steyn of South Africa, David Warner of Australia, Tillakaratne Dilshan of Sri Lanka, Kieron Pollard, Dwayne Smith and Sunil Narine of the West Indies.

In the women's side, five players from champions Australia were represented while beaten finalists England have four in the side including Edwards. The team also features players from West Indies and New Zealand.

For the women's team, players who were considered included Danielle Wyatt and Lydia Greenway of England, Sophie Devine of New Zealand, Deandra Dottin of West Indies, Erin Osborne of Australia and South Africa's Dane van Niekerk.

MEN'S WORLD XI

Chris Gayle (West Indies), Shane Watson (Australia), Virat Kohli (India), Mahela Jayawardene (Sri Lanka -- captain), Luke Wright (England), Brendon McCullum (New Zealand -- wicketkeeper), Marlon Samuels (West Indies), Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka), Mitchell Starc (Australia), Saeed Ajmal (Pakistan), Ajantha Mendis (Sri Lanka)

12th Man: Suresh Raina (India)

WOMEN'S WORLD XI

Charlotte Edwards (England -- captain), Meg Lanning (Australia), Poonam Raut (India), Laura Marsh (England), Sarah Taylor (England -- wicketkeeper), Lisa Sthalekar (Australia), Stafanie Taylor (West Indies), Julie Hunter (Australia), Ellyse Perry (Australia), Katherine Brunt (England), Erin Bermingham (New Zealand)

12th Player: Jess Cameron (Australia).

'Not ruthless enough'

AFP, Colombo



Sri Lanka's captain Mahela Jayawardene admitted his team choked in the World Twenty20 final against the West Indies, denying themselves a long-awaited title.

"When we were put under pressure, we did not react well," Jayawardene said after the hosts crashed to a 36-run defeat in Sunday's final in front of 35,000 stunned fans at the Premadasa Stadium.

Having restricted the West Indies to a modest 137-6, Sri Lanka fell woefully short with the bat and were out for 101 in 18.4 overs in a match they were favoured to win.

It was Sri Lanka's fourth successive loss in a major final, having stumbled twice in the title clash of the 50-over World Cups in 2007 and 2011 and also in the World Twenty20 in 2009.

Jayawardene, who announced after the final that he was stepping down as Twenty20 captain, was "disappointed and hurt" at not being able to replicate the country's 50-over World Cup triumph in 1996.

"As a team we gave everything we had," he said. "We wanted to win a big tournament to give something to the fans who have been cheering us."

"We just did not execute a good game plan and we were not ruthless enough. We are very disappointed that we could not give the fans what they wanted, and that hurts a lot."

"We need to sit together, have a chat on what went wrong and then move on."

Jayawardene said the all-round effort by Marlon Samuels, who smashed 78 off 56 balls and took 1-15 from four steady overs of off-spin, took the game away from Sri Lanka.

Samuels' hit six sixes and three fours to lift his team to 105 runs in the last 10 overs after they were reduced to 32-2 from the first 10.

"In the pressure situations we could not control the match," said Jayawardene. "Samuels batted really well and he took it away from us a little bit."

"We did not react well when we were put under pressure. When those small mistakes add up, that's where you lose a match like a final, and that's what happened to us."

"But all credit to the West Indies. They

played a good game of cricket in a big final and we did not."

Jayawardene said it was hard to explain the defeats in four successive finals.

"Every defeat has been different," he said. "In a couple of the finals, we did not start well and kept chasing the game, but in this one started really well."

"We did not have any momentum chasing the target. We needed a couple of partnerships, which we did not get. The West Indies handled the situations better than us."

"We have been playing some really good cricket but unfortunately we have not been able to cross that hurdle. As a player, as a cricketer and as an individual, it hurts a lot."

"But you just have to move on and see how well we can get over this and keep fighting again," Jayawardene, who will remain the Test and one-day captain, said.

Sri Lanka are due to host New Zealand in November, before touring Australia in December-January.

Press term SL

FROM PAGE 16

chokers, losing to the same team they crushed by nine wickets with 28 balls to spare in the Super Eight round," the paper added.

The privately-run Island newspaper thought one culprit in the humiliating defeat was Lasith Malinga, who gave away 54 runs in four overs and collected no wickets.

"The best bowler in the shortest form of the game miserably failed to live up to expectations in the biggest cricket spectacle hosted in [Sri Lanka's] history," it said.

Sri Lanka had started off well and it was "heartbreaking" for 35,000 fans inside the stadium, the paper said.

Twitter and Facebook chatter pointed to President Mahinda Rajapakse's presence at the R Premadasa Stadium as a possible jinx on the home side.

Rajapakse had told journalists he was in two minds about going to the finals because his presence at two previous World Cup finals had ended in defeat.

"Again the same story," said Sri Lankan fan Aneez on his Twitter account.

'Australia need new spinners'

Cricket

CRICINFO, Melbourne

George Bailey believes Australia's spin bowlers must find a way to be more effective on the subcontinent if the team is to have any chance of winning the next World Twenty20, to be held in Bangladesh in 2014. After returning home Monday Bailey also defended the form of the middle-order batsmen, who besides his own 63 in the semifinal loss to West Indies had little impact in the tournament as the top three carried the bulk of the workload.

Three days after Australia's tournament ended their exit might not have looked so bad, coming as it did against the eventual champions. However, one notable feature of the final was that both sides had outstanding finger-spinners with a mystery element: Sri Lanka's Ajantha Mendis was the tournament's leading wicket taker with 15 at 9.80 and the West Indian Sunil Narine was equal fourth with nine victims, including five in the semifinal and the decider.

Another bowler of similar ilk, Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal, was also equal fourth on the wicket tally and all three were miserly as well. In contrast, Xavier Doherty leaked 8.63 runs an over - his 1 for 48 from three overs in the semifinal seriously dented Australia's hopes - while Brad Hogg managed only two wickets in his six games and the all-rounder Glenn Maxwell was equally ineffective. Bailey knows it will be almost impossible to win in Bangladesh in 2014 with a similar slow-bowling output.

"One of the things we need to look at is the way we bowl our spin," Bailey said. "I don't know any other way to describe it than as a Western-type way of bowling, which tends to be to try and draw the batsman out of the crease, whereas all the teams who have had success at the World Cup, their spinners are bowling into the wicket, quite fast, hitting the stumps every ball, making it very hard."

"We need to find a way to develop spinners like that, and the tough thing is maybe bowling like that doesn't really suit conditions in Australia. But I think if you look at all the stats from the tournament that was probably one of the areas that if we're serious about winning the tournament we're going to have to find a way to improve come Bangladesh."

During the World Twenty20, Muttiah Muralidaran said he believed one of the reasons Australia would not produce such a spinner was that unorthodox bowlers would be encouraged at junior levels to change their style. Bailey said it was important that young spinners with potential were identified regardless of whether they fit the Australian idea of what makes a good slow bowler.

"As a nation we still talk about whether guys have legitimate actions or not and at the end of the day that's really not for us to be arguing about," Bailey said. "If that's the rules and that's how bowlers are bowling now and having success in international cricket then we've got to start developing those players and developing them at 10-11 years of age and we start to have some bowlers who do bowl like Murali or Ajmal or Narine."

Gasquet sails into 2nd round

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

France's Richard Gasquet rediscovered the winning formula Monday after last week's shock defeat to a Chinese wildcard, cruising into the second round of the Shanghai Masters alongside Croatia's Marin Cilic.

Gasquet crashed to a humiliating loss at the China Open when Zhang Ze closed a rankings gap of 151 places to beat him, just days after the Frenchman won the Thailand Open by beating compatriot Gilles Simon in the final.

But the 26-year-old, seeded 11th in Shanghai, made sure there was no repeat

on the second day of action in Shanghai, winning four out of five break points to dispatch American journeyman Brian Baker 6-2, 6-3.

Tenth seed Cilic, who stands 6 feet 6 inches (198 cm) tall, joined him in the second round with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Lukasz Kubot, hitting eight aces and breaking his Polish opponent four times.

Sam Querrey of the United States fired 11 aces in a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Chinese wildcard Zhe Li.

Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov set up a clash with Novak Djokovic by beating Pablo Andujar of Spain 7-5, 6-3. But he faces a daunting task against the second seed, fresh from victory at the China Open and aiming to displace Roger Federer at the top of the rankings.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Colorado ski mecca
6 Aries
9 Book-keeper (Abbr.)
12 Camel's cousin
13 "The Greatest"
14 Chance
15 Hammerstein's contribution
16 Decorative floor
18 Knapsack parts
20 Kazakhstan river
21 Buddhist sect
23 Lamb's dam
24 Minimal change
25 Writer Kingsley
27 Rice, on a Mexican menu
29 Minnesotan
31 Fled to wed
35 Heat
37 Appellation

38 Miss USA
41 Neighbor of Ukr.
43 Abrade
44 Con
45 Off-repeated word
47 Layered dessert
49 Carnival attractions
52 Blackbird
53 Paid player
54 Old marketplace
55 Vast expanse
56 Listener
57 Grew

DOWN

1 Every iota
2 Crafty
3 Carrot's cousin
4 Send forth
5 Mother-of-pearl type
6 50 Cent, e.g.
7 "Sad to say..."
8 Bygone space station
9 Make butter
10 Song of joy
11 As deemed fit
17 - City (former Philippine capital)
19 Trophy, for one
21 Sharp turn
22 Comedian Philips
24 D.C.
26 "Doctor Zhivago" star
28 Same old story?
30 Detergent brand
32 Baffling contradiction
33 Flightless bird
34 Society newcomer
36 Demos-thenes, for one capital
38 Spanish appetizers
39 Foolish
40 Places in the heart
42 Malt shop item
45 Actress Sorvino
46 Latvia's capital
48 Gorilla
50 Prior to
51 Blue

Solution time: 25 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

T B G J R B ' S S E V B G K A H H R U T
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E I J L B A G , W A I J A I O C T E W
L Z E L ' T Q R C C B G K Q B C C B G K .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DICTATORIAL

SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY WHERE
NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS ALWAYS REIGN:
SERGEANTINA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T