

Clijsters signs off with win

AFP, Antwerp

Former world number one Kim Clijsters celebrated the end of her sparkling tennis career with a victory in an exhibition match against American rival Venus Williams on Wednesday.

The Belgian, who won 41 career singles titles, played her last official match at the US Open in August, but was keen to play for one last time in front of her home support.

With a crowd of 13,000 looking on, the 29-year-old beat Williams 6-3, 6-3.

BN Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Commodore Commanding Chittagong team beat Commodore Commanding Khulna team by 87 runs in the T20 final to become champions in the Bangladesh Navy's annual cricket competition which ended on Wednesday at the BNS Isa Khan Sports Complex in Chittagong.

A total of five teams took part in the five-day competition.

Mohammad Kawser of the winning team was adjudged best cricketer in the competition.

Honours even

FROM PAGE 16
became 16 for two when in-form Cook got a dubious decision from umpire Kumar Dharmasena.

SCOREBOARD
ENGLAND: First innings
Cook lbw b Sharma 1
Compton b Dhoni b Sharma 3
Trott b Jadeja 44
Pietersen c Ojha b Jadeja 73
Bell c Kohli b Chawla 1
Root not out 31
Prior not out 34
Extras: (b-5, lb-7) 12
Total: (For 5 wkts in 97 overs) 199
To bat: Bresnan, Swann, Anderson, Panesar

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-16, 3-102, 4-119, 5-139

Bowler 0 M R W
Sharma 19 7 32 0
Ojha 27 9 50 0
Jadeja 25 13 34 2
Chawla 13 1 39 1
Ashwin 13 2 32 0

INDIA: Gambhir, Sehwag, Pujara, Tendulkar, Kohli, Jadeja, Dhoni, Ashwin, Chawla, Sharma, Ojha

Toss: England.

Hobart Test

FROM PAGE 16
supplemented by Shane Watson's swing and spinner Nathan Lyon.

Recalled Phil Hughes will bat at number three with Watson at four while skipper Michael Clarke and veteran Mike Hussey stay at five and six in the first Test match since the retirement of Ricky Ponting.

Sri Lanka have played 10 Tests in Australia but have never won.

"We'll bank on our experience with our batting. To win a Test match it's important to put runs on the board, we just need to score runs and give our bowlers a chance to get 20 wickets," Jayawardene said.

TEAMS

SRI LANKA: Tillakaratne Dilshan, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Thilan Samaraweera, Angelo Mathews, Prasanna Jayawardene, Nuwan Kulasekara, Rangan Herath, Shaminda Eranga, Chanaka Welegedara.

AUSTRALIA: David Warner, Ed Cowan, Phil Hughes, Shane Watson, Michael Clarke (captain), Mike Hussey, Matthew Wade, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc, Ben Hilfenhaus, Nathan Lyon.

Ryan's instant impact

World short course meet starts in Istanbul

Swimming

AFP, Istanbul

US swim star Ryan Lochte bagged two golds on the opening day of the World Short Course Swimming Championships on Wednesday to add to the five medals he won in the London Olympics in the summer.

The American first led from start to finish to win the men's 200m freestyle before he teamed up with Anthony Ervin, James Feigen and Matthew Grevers to win the 4x100m freestyle relay.

Lochte was pushed hard by Germany's world record holder Paul Biedermann in the 200m freestyle, but he clocked 1min 41.92sec to claim his 15th career world short course championships gold medal.

The second gold was secured in a much tougher contest and needed anchor leg swimmer Grevers to chase down and overtake Russia's Artem Lobuzov and then hold off the late charge of Italy's Filippo Magnini to secure Lochte's 16th gold medal in the championships history.

Those two golds saw the US team sit atop the medals standings at the end of day one, with the USA women adding a third gold by winning the final race of the day, the 4x200m freestyle relay.

The quartet of Megan Romano, Chelsea Chenault, Shannon Vreeland and Allison Schmitt were pushed all the way by Russia, but Schmitt's greater strength over the final 200m brought them home in front.

Elsewhere it was a good day for eastern

European women. Hungary's Katinka Hosszu set a competition record of 2:02.20 when she won gold in the 200m butterfly and in doing so became the first Hungarian woman to win a medal in championship history.

Hosszu returned to the pool 30 minutes later to overhaul compatriot Zsuzsanna Jakabos in the final stages of the women's 400m individual medley and win bronze behind Great Britain's Hannah Miley and Ye Shiwen of China.

Lithuania's 15-year-old Olympic champion Ruta Meilutyte meanwhile twice broke the championship record on her way to the 50m breaststroke final. In the morning session she finished in 29.56 and then lowered it 29.51 in the semifinal.

Earlier in the day, the championships started in the Turkish capital, four months after the London Olympics but with notable absences, including megastar Michael Phelps and teenage sensation Missy Franklin.

Phelps was never going to figure after taking his bow from the sport with 22 Olympic medals to his name, while 17-year-old Franklin -- who won four golds and bagged two world records in London -- declined to take part.

Also missing is 100m freestyle champion Nathan Adrian, who has an injured finger.

Instead, the competition features eight Olympic champions, among them Lochte, who is taking part in his third competitive event since leaving the British capital.

for it might diminish, and all the TV programmers and the administrators will be focusing on the two other forms (Twenty20 and Test cricket).

"Twenty20, let's face it, is the revenue stream that keeps the longer version alive."

More than 30 years after limited-overs cricket in coloured clothing took off in Kerry Packer's World Series revolution in Australia, crowds have dropped off dramatically in recent years -- a decline hastened by the Twenty20 boom.

A total of 456,264 spectators attended one-day internationals in the Australian summer of 1999-2000, a figure that plummeted to 251,916 last season.

Cricket Australia spokesman Peter Young said the governing body did not share Gilchrist's views.

"The World Cup is the world's fourth-biggest sporting event. It's got a viewing audience of a billion people," he told reporters.

"Our own research shows when you measure the affection of cricket with the Australian public that ODI cricket has still got a lot of life left in its legs."

"I suspect that after that the appetite

ODIs go in 3 yrs: Gilly

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australian cricket great Adam Gilchrist believes the one-day format is on an irreversible slide and will be "history" in three years, a report said on Thursday.

The trailblazing wicketkeeper-batsman fears the 50-over game, which has been losing its appeal in Australia since the ascent of Twenty20 cricket, will likely not last beyond the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

"I reckon about three years, as I see it, and it will be pretty much gone," Gilchrist, who made his name in Australia's one-day team before a brilliant 96-match Test career, told radio station Triple M.

"There is a World Cup in 2015 -- I believe TV deals are all locked away to get to that, and those commitments will be fulfilled. But after that I think it will be history."

"I suspect that one-day cricket may be obsolete in about three years' time," he added.

"I suspect that after that the appetite

for it might diminish, and all the TV programmers and the administrators will be focusing on the two other forms (Twenty20 and Test cricket).

"Twenty20, let's face it, is the revenue stream that keeps the longer version alive."

More than 30 years after limited-overs cricket in coloured clothing took off in Kerry Packer's World Series revolution in Australia, crowds have dropped off dramatically in recent years -- a decline hastened by the Twenty20 boom.

A total of 456,264 spectators attended one-day internationals in the Australian summer of 1999-2000, a figure that plummeted to 251,916 last season.

Cricket Australia spokesman Peter Young said the governing body did not share Gilchrist's views.

"The World Cup is the world's fourth-biggest sporting event. It's got a viewing audience of a billion people," he told reporters.

"Our own research shows when you measure the affection of cricket with the Australian public that ODI cricket has still got a lot of life left in its legs."

"I suspect that after that the appetite

HC stays BCB

FROM PAGE 16

BCB on March 1.

One of the changes adopted and approved in the amended 2012 BCB constitution was that the BCB president would be elected by the directors instead of the councillors.

Earlier, a BCB president was nominated by the government. The previous board, the tenure of which expired on November 26, however adopted a resolution for an elected BCB president through councillors' vote which the NSC eventually did not endorse.

The NSC also approved an increase of councillorship of the top six Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League clubs (according to the last standings of the League) from one to two and the new constitution also relaxed the clause about the councillorship of the district and divisional organisations. Under the amended constitution, someone from other districts can obtain councillorship of any district.

It also adopted the provision for three selected directors from the NSC -- the country's regulatory sports authority -- in the 27-member board of directors including the president, in the constitution.

The BCB is currently being run by an ad-hoc committee.

Man U T20 champions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Manchester United Club of Rampur became champions in the Victory Day T20 Cricket Tournament beating Mohammedan Sporting Club of Feni by two wickets in the final at the Bhasha Salam Stadium yesterday.

Mohammedan scored 155 runs in 20 overs while Manchester reached the target with one over and two wickets to spare.

Later, Birinchi Surjomukhi emerged champions in the Mega Lubricants Handball League with a 5-2 victory over Rampur Boys Club.

outside the box.

Sheikh Russel hit back to pull one goal back in the 84th minute through Emily but their effort was not enough to avert their first defeat in their second match, following a win over Team BJMC.

"We were confident of winning the game as Sheikh Russel is a team we beat 2-0 in last season's league," Mohammedan striker Augustine said. "Actually we have implemented our strategy well on the pitch and if we can maintain this, we will be champions."

"I think the players were overconfident after winning the Federation Cup and paid the price for it. Besides, there were some defence lapses in the match and Mohammedan took advantage of those mistakes," said Sheikh Russel coach Maruf Haque.

V'day cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Victory Day cricket match between Shaheed Jewel XI and Shaheed Mushtaque XI will be held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium tomorrow.

The 40-overs a side game is scheduled to start at 10am.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced the teams yesterday for the traditional Victory Day exhibition match, which was first organised in 1972 in memory of the Liberation War martyrs Shaheed Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel and Shaheed Mushtaque Ahmed.

TEAMS

SHAHEED JEWEL XI:

Imrul Kayes, Junaid Siddiqui, Shahriar Nafees, Nazimuddin, Mohammad Ashraful, Marshall Ayub, Mohammad Mithun, Elias Sunny, Mosharraf Hossain, Al Amin, Robiul Islam, Shahadat Hossain and Ziaur Rahman.

SHAHEED MUSHTAQUE XI:

Liton Das, Anamul Haque, Mominul Haque, Asif Ahmed, Soumya Sarker, Mahamudul Hasan, Nazmul Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Alauddin Babu, Sanjamul Islam, Dewan Sabbir, Myshukur Rahman and Nurul Hasan.

CWAB happy

FROM PAGE 16

the cricketers' rights in the constitution. I want to thank our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, state minister for youth and sports Ahad Ali Sarkar and BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon for their support," he added.

The CWAB officials including its president and ad-hoc committee member Naimur Rahman all had high praise for the new constitution.

Cricket Australia spokesman Peter Young said the governing body did not share Gilchrist's views.

"The World Cup is the world's fourth-biggest sporting event. It's got a viewing audience of a billion people," he told reporters.

"Our own research shows when you measure the affection of cricket with the Australian public that ODI cricket has still got a lot of life left in its legs."

"I suspect that after that the appetite

LOCAL snippets

SPORTS REPORTER

Rajshahi reached the final of the Agrani Bank 23rd National Youth Hockey Championship with a 5-4 win over Faridpur in the tiebreaker at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The match rolled into the shootout after the regulation and extra time produced a 2-2 draw in the semifinal. Rajshahi goalkeeper Masud Parvez was the hero, thwarting the sixth shot of the opponents as after the first five shots the score was locked at 4-4.

Sarwar Hossain put Faridpur ahead in the tenth minute converting a penalty corner before Mostafizur Rahman levelled the margin through a field goal in the 27th minute.

After resumption, Rajshahi went ahead through Taher Ali while Faridpur equalised one minute from time through Sarwar Hossain.

AFC Women's Asian Cup

Bangladesh will host the Group B Qualifier matches of the AFC Women's Asian Cup in May next year. Bangladesh have been drawn in Group B along with Thailand, Iran and the Philippines.

The matches will take place at Bangabandhu National Stadium from May 21-25.

Bangladesh will start their campaign with a match against Thailand on May 21, before taking on Iran on May 23 and Philippines on May 25.

Senior Div F'ball

Dhaka Wanderers Club played out a 1-1 draw against Mohakhali Ekadash in the Popular Life Insurance Senior Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday.

Ahmed Apu put Wanderers Club ahead in the 25th minute but the lead lasted only a minute as Krishna Paul levelled the margin for Mohakhali in the 26th minute.

Huge defeat for BD

The Bangladesh men's handball team made a frustrating start in the IHF Trophy Tournament when they suffered a massive 43-10 defeat against India in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday.

Bangladesh trailed the first half 26-4. Niraj Singh and Sukvir Singh scored six goals each for India.

Hosts Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Yemen are the teams taking part in the tournament.

Rajib finishes 40th

Grand Master Enamul Hossain Rajib finished 4