

SA blow away Pak

SPORTS DESK

South Africa cruised to a nine-wicket victory over Pakistan in the first Twenty20 International in Dubai yesterday. The Proteas restricted Pakistan to 98 in their allotted 20 overs, before quickly wrapping up the chase. A flurry of fours and sixes in the second wicket partnership between Francois du Plessis (37 not out) and Quinton de Kock (48 not out) killed off the chase with nine wickets and 33 balls to spare.

Earlier, Umar Akmal had put up the only resistance in the Pakistani batting line up with his 41-ball 49 in an otherwise chaotic display in which four batsmen failed to score after Pakistan had won the toss and decided to bat.

Pacer Lonwabo Tsotsobe chipped in with two wickets for just nine runs in his four tight overs, while Dale Steyn chipped in with two early wickets as Pakistan were reeling at 4-3.

Umar added 29 for the sixth wicket with Abdul Razzaq who made 10, before finally getting run out. He hit four boundaries and a six. Steyn finished with 3-15 in a hostile four-over pace bowling display.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 98 for 9 in 20 overs (Umar 49, Malik 12; Steyn 3-15, Tsotsobe 2-9) **SOUTH AFRICA:** 99 for one in 14.3 overs (De Plessis 37 not out, De Kock 48 not out)

Result: South Africa won by nine wickets.

SACHIN the pioneer

The Indian legend has left markers in the road to batting greatness. Some of those markers may never be seen by another batting journeyman, but almost all of the markers of batting longevity bears the name of one Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar.

FIRSTS:

- **31 March 2001:** first and fastest to reach 10,000 ODI runs and every subsequent thousand-run landmark since
- **28 January 2002:** first and fastest to 11,000
- **1 March 2003:** became the first, and again fastest, of only three (Ricky Ponting and Sanath Jayasuriya being the other two) batsmen to record 12,000 runs
- **16 March 2004:** became the first and fastest to 13,000 runs with only two other batsmen (Rahul Dravid and Ponting) for company
- Thereafter it was a lonely road as Tendulkar became the only batsman to traverse 14,000 (6 February 2006), 15,000 (29 June 2007), 16,000 (5 February 2008), 17,000 (5 November 2009) and 18,000 (24 March 2011)
- **26 September 1998:** became the first batsman to score 18 ODI centuries, overtaking Desmond Haynes's tally of 17, which was the gold standard until then. Many have crossed the mark since, but Tendulkar was the first to 20, 30 and 40 centuries and at 49, sits 19 tons clear of the next best -- Ricky Ponting
- **24 February 2010:** became the first to score 200 in an ODI, against South Africa at Gwalior

The list is only marginally less exclusive in Test cricket, which after his 200th Test against West Indies starting today Tendulkar will quit and mark the end of the most celebrated sporting career

- **17 October 2008:** first and fastest to 12,000 Test runs (and one of only four to have done so along with Rahul Dravid, Jacques Kallis and Ricky Ponting). Ponting shares the same number of innings (247) taken, but reached the landmark almost two years later
- **17 January 2010:** first and fastest to reach 13,000
- From then on, he was again the one-man founding member, being the only man to reach 14,000 (9 October 2010) and 15,000 (6 November 2011) Test runs
- **10 December 2005:** became the first player to score 35 Test centuries, achieving the feat against Sri Lanka in Delhi and overtaking Sunil Gavaskar's peak of 34 centuries. Tendulkar went on to be the first to 40 and 50 Test match centuries, and at 51 tons sits well clear of next best Jacques Kallis's 44 Test hundreds

AND ONE THAT WILL LIKELY NEVER BE REACHED:

- **16 March 2012:** Tendulkar was responsible for introducing a new genre of statistical measurement when he scored 114 against

WC ticket sale from Sunday

SPORTS REPORTER

Tickets for the World Twenty20, which begins on March 16 at Mirpur, will be available from November 17 onwards. The tickets will be sold at 44 selected MoneyGram booths of the NCC Bank Limited and will also be available online at www.icc-cricket.com.

Each customer will be entitled a maximum of four tickets for a single match and a total of ten tickets for the entire tournament. Buyers will need to present their national ID cards while purchasing the ticket.

The tickets will be sold in two phases. The first phase is between November 17 and December 31 and the second will begin on February 1.

Customers, who have access to Visa, Master and Nexus cards can buy them online as well.

DPL resumes today

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The Dhaka Premier League resumes today after a four-day break as Prime Doleshwar take on Kalabagan Cricket Academy in the last match of the eleventh round at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Both Doleshwar and Kalabagan have qualified for the Super League and will be looking to gain valuable points as teams carry their collection into the next phase.

The game was earlier scheduled to take place on November 10.

Thursday will also reveal whether Brothers Union, who had played a suspended player in their last game against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, will feature in the Super League. As per the current standings Brothers are fifth with eleven points and should go through if the Bangladesh Cricket Board does not strip the clubs off its points, as requested in a petition sent in by Sheikh Jamal.

Middlesbrough hire Karanka

APP, London

English second-tier club Middlesbrough confirmed the appointment of former Real Madrid assistant Aitor Karanka as their new head coach.

The 40-year-old Spaniard succeeds Tony Mowbray, who was sacked last month following a poor run of results.

Get the DPL

SPORTS REPORTER

Muktijoddha players pose after completing their registration formalities at the BFF House yesterday.

Muktis mean business

SPORTS REPORTER

Two-time professional league runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad KC completed their players' registration formalities yesterday, with a target of finishing third in the upcoming season.

The All Reds, who had to be content with second-position finish by a single point on both occasions, struggled last season as they finished sixth in the nine-team league. However, this time they have they are hoping big after signing 15 new players including former national goalkeeper Aminul Haque, former national striker Enamul Haque, national discards Maruf Ahmed, Uttam Kumar Bonik and Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraj.

The freedom fighters' side signed up maximum six players from Mohammedan, three each from Abahani and Team BJMC and two

from treble-winners Sheikh Russel KC while retaining seven of their own.

"We entered the transfer market a little late after title contenders Sheikh Jamal DC, Sheikh Russel KC, Abahani and Mohammedan SC had already confirmed their players," said Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam Manik. "Besides, we had to face some problems within the club as there was no elected committee but the initiatives from Liberation War Affairs minister AB Tajul Islam and interim chairman Golam Mostafa have helped us to form a fighting team."

Despite a depleted side, Muktijoddha Sangsad played in three semifinals last season -- Federation Cup, Independence Cup and Super Cup -- and were in fourth position at the end of first-phase of Bangladesh Premier League with only four points difference with the then table leaders

and a couple of trophies outside the country.

Manik believes his side would be a tough challenge for other contenders and if his charges can stay among top three teams from the start of the league, they might end up as title contenders in the three-phase Bangladesh Premier League.

Muktijoddha Sangsad have signed three Nigerian players and two each from Egypt and Nigeria while one national player of Haiti is supposed to arrive here by Friday.

Uruguay outplay Jordan

APP, Amman



Uruguay are almost assured of their place in next year's World Cup finals in Brazil after battering Jordan 5-0 in their intercontinental playoff first leg on Wednesday.

The South American giants, sixth in the FIFA rankings, overcame a few tense minutes at the start of the game at the packed Amman International Stadium to seal an emphatic victory against the 70th ranked Jordanians who failed to live up to the hype and expectation generated in their own country.

Benfica defender Maxi Pereira put the South Americans ahead in the 22nd minute with a simple tap-in after an Edinson Cavani header was parried by Jordanian goalkeeper Abdulla al-Zubi.

The two-time world champions consolidated their lead through Espanyol striker Christian Stuani who sneaked the ball under al-Zubi after a brilliant dummy by Cavani in the 42nd minute.

The tall Paris St. Germain star ducked

under a throw-in to allow the ball to reach Nicolas Lodiero and the Botafogo midfielder clipped the ball to Stuani who beat al-Zubi with an easy shot from close range.

Jordan's Egyptian coach Hossam Hassan had invoked Arab pride in his rallying cry before the match, saying his team carried the hopes of the entire Arab world, but the Uruguayans, with several of their stars playing in the European leagues, simply proved too good on the day.

The Jordanians, however, had one clear chance but Ibrahim al-Zawareh inexplicably fired wide from close range after Shareef Adnan had done all the hard work on the right early in the second half.

Thereafter it was Uruguay all the way, Lodiero scoring the third goal in the 69th minute after poor defending by the Jordanians allowed Cavani to get behind the back four.

Christian Rodriguez got on the score-sheet in the 76th minute with a half-volley from close range and Cavani, easily the star of the match, finished off the game with a brilliant free-kick from outside the penalty area in added time.

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Jamil, Biplob & Akhter in Round 2

SPORTS REPORTER

Three Bangladeshi players - Jamil Bhuiyan, Biplob Ram and Akhter Hossain -- advanced to the second round of boys' singles in the 27th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Jamil Bhuiyan beat India's Jaffar Javed 6-1, 6-3, Biplob Ram outplayed Liu Yang of Chinese Taipei 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 while Akhter Hossain defeated Nyles Moisson of Canada 6-2, 6-4.

Thirteen more boys and six girls advanced to the next round yesterday. However, none of the Bangladeshi girls managed to win their matches.

The second round matches of boys' and girls' singles will be held on today.

Leo vows to return as soon as possible

REUTERS, Madrid

Lionel Messi will be working "full time" to shake off the hamstring injury sustained on Sunday that will sideline him for six to eight weeks, Barcelona's Argentine World Player of the Year said on Tuesday.

In his first public remarks since he was forced off early in Barca's 4-1 La Liga win at Real Betis, Messi said his priority was to return as soon as possible so he could contribute to the Spanish champions' quest for silverware.

"As many of you know, over the next few weeks I will be working full time on the recovery from this latest injury," Messi said on his Facebook page.

"For me it is a pity not to be able to play with my team right now," added the 26-year-old.

"Now the most important thing is to recover well so I can help my team mates and reward all the support you've given to me in the best way I know how to do, playing football."

Messi was substituted in the 19th minute in Seville after pulling up following a sprint for possession and a tangle with his markers.

It was his third thigh injury of the campaign and followed a similar muscle problem towards the end of last season.

His absence is perhaps not as serious as it might first appear as he will likely return before Barca face title rivals Atletico Madrid in January and they have already qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League.

In Brazil forward Neymar, signed from Santos in the close season, Barca have a player with a similar ability to turn a game and the 21-year-old will be expected to justify his 57 million-euro (\$76.6 million) price tag while Messi is out.

The Argentine will miss Barca's final two matches in the group stage of Europe's elite club competition, against Ajax Amsterdam and Celtic.

He will also be unavailable for La Liga games against Granada, Athletic Bilbao, Villarreal and Getafe and the two-legged King's Cup tie against Cartagena but should return in time for the La Liga clash at Atletico the weekend of Jan. 11-12.



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