

RONALDO'S VIDEO GAME

Keen to expand his business empire beyond ridiculously expensive underpants, Cristiano Ronaldo has lent his name and likeness to a new video game. The mobile game sees Ronaldo team up with Hugo the Troll for "Ronaldo & Hugo: Superstar Skaters". With Ronaldo being one of the most instantly recognisable professional footballers on the planet, it was only natural that his maiden computer game role sees him enlisting the services of a skateboarding troll to help him collect coins and evade the paparazzi on the streets of Las Vegas.--
INTERNET



Czech Republic's Lucie Safarova pumps her fist after winning a point against Serbia's Ana Ivanovic during their French Open women's semifinal in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Serena fends off illness Sets up Paris final against Lucie

AFP, Paris



Serena Williams's dream of winning all four Grand Slam titles in the same year is still alive despite her looking all but out on her feet in Thursday's French Open semifinals.

Playing on the hottest day of the tournament so far, the 33-year-old American superstar struggled badly with her physical condition throughout a 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 win over Swiss surprise Timea Bacsinszky.

Walking slowly between points and looking thoroughly miserable, it was the fourth time in this tournament that she has had to battle back from the loss of the first set.

But her fighting spirit came through in the end and now only Lucie Safarova, the Czech 13th seed, stands between her and reaching the halfway stage of a calendar-year Grand Slam previously achieved by only three other women -- Maureen Connolly, Margaret Court and most-recently Steffi Graf in 1988.

It would also leave her with 20 Grand Slam titles, just two shy of Graf's Open-era record of 24.

Safarova, at 28, reached her first Grand Slam final after 12 years of trying, following her run into the Wimbledon semis last year. She defeated the 2008 Roland Garros

winner Ana Ivanovic 7-5, 7-5 in a nervy, mistake-ridden encounter which preceded the Williams match.

A late blossomer, whose nice-girl reputation belies a steely determination, Safarova would be best advised not to look too closely at the record books as she has a dismal 0-8 losing record against the top seed and two-time former champion in Paris.

It is a prospect apparently which does not trouble the Brno-born player.

Talking before the Williams match ended she said.

"I mean Serena is number one in the world, great player. So whoever will be there, I will just go there and play my game and obviously try and get the trophy."

In her favour might be exactly what condition Williams will be in when they both get to Saturday afternoon's final.

Coughing and spluttering, she was forced to abandon her court-side interview immediately after clinching the win over Bacsinszky after saying just a few words.

What she did manage was: "I kept trying to find the energy and keep fighting. I wasn't feeling well."

She was then seen on TV being comforted and helped away to the locker rooms by her French coach Patrick Mouratoglou, who has been credited with reviving her flagging career after a shock first round loss in Paris in 2012.

Belgium reach record high

AFP, Paris

Belgium moved above Argentina into second in the latest FIFA world rankings published on Thursday, a record high for the European country.

World Cup winners Germany held onto their number one spot with Argentina dropping a place to third ahead of a pair of South Americans rounding out the top five, Colombia and Brazil.

France moved into the top 10 at the expense of Switzerland while England dropped a place to 15th as Costa Rica rose.

The biggest movers were Madagascar, though, up 37 places to 113th while the Maldives dropped 38 places to 178.

Bangladesh have risen 3 places to claim the 166th position in the latest FIFA rankings. Bangladesh received 55.25 points for their 1-1 draw in a friendly match against Afghanistan, but they failed to get any points in their previous game, losing 2-1 to Singapore. Bangladesh will have the chance to climb further up the rankings this month as they will face Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

Bowlers' domination on

AFP, Roseau



Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo claimed three vital wickets to restrict Australia to 153 for six in reply to the West Indies first innings total of 148 at lunch on the second day of the first Test on Thursday.

Bishoo's guile and accuracy on a helpful surface at the Windsor Park Stadium in Dominica accounted for Steve Smith, Shane Watson and Brad Haddin in quick succession, keeping the home side very much in contention after the tourists started the day at 85 for three.

Australia had been intent on building a potentially match-winning lead in what is shaping up as a low-scoring contest, and while wickets tumbled at one end, Adam Voges held firm.

The 35-year-old debutant remained unbeaten on 45 at the interval in partnership with Mitchell Johnson (14 not out).

The seventh-wicket pair put on 27 runs and with the Australian lower-order noted for occasionally making useful contribu-

tions, the tourists may still remain hopeful of eking out a useful first-innings advantage in the afternoon.

On the opening day, the hosts squandered a promising position, losing their last nine wickets for 85 runs to be dismissed for 148. The tourists then reached stumps at 85 for three in reply.

Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Johnson led the rout of the West Indies with three wickets each on a surface that held few terrors for the batsmen.

Fellow pacer Mitchell Starc chimed in with two scalps as the bowlers were complemented by excellence in the field, captain Michael Clarke leading the way with three catches in the slip cordon.

SCORES IN BRIEF

WEST INDIES: First innings 148 (Hope 36, Holder 21, Bravo 19, Ramdin 19; Hazlewood 3-33, Johnson 3-34, Starc 2-48)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 153 for 6 (Voges 45 not out, Smith 25, Marsh 19; Bishoo 4-59) Toss: West Indies Umpires: Aleem Dar and Richard Kettleborough.

Zia shares 2nd place

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman shared second position in the 8th Mumbai Mayor's Cup International Open Chess Tournament at the close of the fourth round held yesterday.

Zia drew with Georgian Mikheil Mchedlishvili in his fourth board to secure 3.5 points and shared second position with eight other players.

GM Enamul Hossain Razib however lost to Georgian GM Pantsulaia Levant to take 2.5 points from four outings, while GM Abdullah Al Rakib drew with Indian Phadke Sohan to secure two points from four matches.

A total of 147 players from 11 countries including 18 Grand Masters, One Women Grand Master, 16 International Masters and four International Women Masters are participating in the event.

Chiellini blow for Juventus

AFP, Milan

Juventus on Thursday ruled key defender Giorgio Chiellini out of the Champions League final against Barcelona after suffering a muscle tear in training.

Chiellini had to leave training on Wednesday and scans on Thursday confirmed the bad news for the Italian champions.

"The scan revealed a first grade tear of the soleus muscle in his left leg, meaning the defender will miss Saturday's final with Barcelona," said a Juventus statement.

27TH NATIONAL SHOOTING C'SHIP Baki retains title

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdullah Hel Baki, the country's premier shooter after the departure of Commonwealth Gold medalist Asif Hossain Khan, improved his performance to retain the title of 10m Air Rifle event in the 27th National Shooting Championship at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

Baki scored 205.3 in the shot-off to go ahead of nearest rival Anjan Kumar Singh, who had scored 204.2 points to win the silver medal. Shovan Chowdhury grabbed the bronze medal with a score of 181.6 points out of 218.

It was the fourth consecutive gold medal from the national championship for Baki.

"It is my best score in a shot-off so far. If I stay consistent and score what I made today (Thursday) it is good enough to win a medal at any international tournament," said a delighted Baki of Dhaka Rifles Club.

Baki has been training under Korean coach Jong Hyun Lee since three months before the start of last year's Commonwealth Games and he believes he is much-improved

under the guidance of Lee.

"At the moment, the federation is not financially well-off enough to bring another quality coach and I think Lee is better than having no coach. I have requested the federation to keep the Korean coach for us if they are not capable of bringing another one," said Baki.

In a quest to secure a 'quota place' for the 2016 Olympic Games in Brazil, Baki will be taking part in three international tournaments -- World Cup in Azerbaijan, Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait and Asian AirGun Championship in India and he believes he could qualify for the final if he can score 595 in the qualification round.

"I am hopeful I can produce better results in the upcoming tournaments as each shooter has a dream to take part in the Olympic Games," hoped Baki.

In the junior event of 10m air rifle event, Jesimuzzaman won gold medal (589), Risalatul Islam (584) and Swarup (580) bagged silver and bronze medal while Sinthia Naznin Tumpa won the gold medal in 25-meter pistol with a score of 523 and Suriya Akter won the gold medal in 50m Rifle three position with a score of 571.



PHOTO: STAR

(L-R) Winners Anjan Kumar Singh (silver), Abdullah Hel Baki (gold) and Shovan Chowdhury (bronze) pose at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan yesterday.

Warner to spill the beans

AFP, Los Angeles



Disgraced former FIFA vice president Jack Warner has said he fears for his life and can prove a link between football's governing body and an election in Trinidad and Tobago.

Warner, one of 14 people wanted by US authorities as part of the corruption scandal rocking world football, said he had an "avalanche" of secrets that include details on FIFA's outgoing president Sepp Blatter.

"I will no longer keep secrets for them," he said in a paid political broadcast shown on Wednesday in Trinidad and Tobago.

"I reasonably and surely fear for my life," he declared and added "not even death will stop the avalanche that is coming."

Now facing extradition to the United States over the charges, Warner, a former minister of national security, is a key figure in the drama that led to Blatter's stunning resignation on Tuesday.

He said he has compiled a file of docu-

ments that shows "a link between FIFA, its funding and me, the link between FIFA its funding and the United National Congress (UNC) and the People's Partnership government in (Trinidad and Tobago's) general election 2010."

Warner also said his file "deals with my knowledge of international transactions at FIFA, including its president Mr Sepp Blatter and, lastly, other matters involving (Trinidad and Tobago's) current prime minister."

Warner was a vice president of FIFA and head of the CONCACAF confederation for North and Central America and the Caribbean. Amid multiple fraud allegations, FIFA suspended him from all duties in 2011.

In the January 2010 UNC internal election, Warner endorsed Kamla Persad-Bissessar as UNC leader. She went on to be elected the country's first woman prime minister, but Warner later broke with her government and party.

Warner said that Blatter was directly "implicated" in his suspension.

Milner agrees L'pool deal

AFP, London

Liverpool announced on Thursday that they have agreed to sign England midfielder James Milner from Premier League rivals Manchester City on a free transfer, subject to a medical examination.

The 29-year-old, capped 53 times by his country, will join Liverpool on July 1 after his City contract expires. Liverpool have not disclosed the length of his contract.

"Liverpool Football Club are delighted to announce they have agreed a deal to sign Manchester City's James Milner, subject to a medical," Liverpool announced on their website.



A soccer fan plays with the ball at the UEFA Champions Festival in Berlin on Thursday, two days before the final between Barcelona and Juventus.

PHOTO: AFP

MTB Credit Rating Reaffirmed

	CURRENT RATING	PREVIOUS RATING
Long Term	AA-	AA-
Short Term	ST 2	ST 2
Based on Financials	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Date of Rating	May 17, 2015	June 23, 2014
Validity Date	May 16, 2016	June 22, 2015



AA- : Higher Safety and High Credit Quality
ST 2 : High Certainty of Timely Repayment
Outlook : Stable



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