



Carlos Brathwaite's heroics in the final of the World Twenty20 in India -- he hit four consecutive sixes off the last over -- saw the West Indies claim a treble. They won the ICC Under-19 World Cup, the ICC Women's World T20 and the ICC World Twenty20.



Real Madrid clinched the Undecima, their 11th European title against local rivals Atletico Madrid. Yannick Ferreira Carrasco cancelled Sergio Ramos's goal and the game eventually went to penalties, where Real won 5-3. (R) Meanwhile in the final of Euro 2016, despite Cristiano Ronaldo limping out early in the game, Portugal held on till extra time against hosts France. In the second half of extra-time, Eder Lopes scored from long range to secure Portugal's first European trophy.



GIANNI INFANTINO WINS FIFA ELECTION

At the 2016 FIFA Extraordinary Congress in February, FIFA held presidential elections after former president Sepp Blatter was forced to resign in disgrace in 2015 and elected Swiss-Italian Gianni Infantino as the new president. Infantino won the election on the second ballot, gaining 115 votes and beating Sheikh Salman al-Khalifa of Qatar, who got 88.

RUSSIA DOPING

Barely a week goes by without new cases of doping in Russian sport even as the country battles to get back into international athletics in time for the 2017 world championships in London. The International Association of Athletics Federations has already extended its suspension of Russian competitors until at least February. World Anti-Doping Agency chief Craig Reedie told AFP in November that Russia is "quite a long way off" being compliant with international doping statutes. Russia has passed a new law making doping a criminal offence, but it has strongly denied accusations in the McLaren report of state-run doping. International experts say the country is in denial, that they are still not getting enough cooperation and that cities closed to foreigners are a doping black hole. After more than 110 Russians were banned from the Rio Olympics in August, the International Olympic Committee opened two investigations into Russian sport, including one on doping at the Sochi and London Olympics. Russian weightlifting has also been badly hit and Russia has lost the world bobsled championships because of the scandal.



Sprint King Usain Bolt ensured that he would not be dethroned, winning gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay, securing the triple-triple and ending his Olympic career with a 100 per cent win record in finals.

ICONS

In a year where there were some remarkable achievements in the sporting world, these four men were in a class of their own.



On 28 November 2016, a flight carrying 77 people, including the staff and players from Brazilian club Chapecoense, crashed. 71 people died (including 21 journalists and almost the entire first team and coaching staff) and six survived.



1. Portugal and Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo captained his country to glory at Euro 2016 and also won the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup with Real Madrid. His 51 goals and 15 assists also saw him win the Ballon d'Or. 2. Another who perhaps made his final Olympics bow, Michael Phelps won an astonishing five gold medals in Rio. 3. After years of playing second fiddle to Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray finally topped the rankings, winning 9 calendar titles including Wimbledon, the ATP World Tour Finals and a gold medal in the Rio Games.

STANDOUT PERFORMERS



19-year old Simone Biles took Brazil by storm, capturing four gold medals in the 2016 Rio Olympics and setting an American record for most gold medals in women's gymnastics at a single Olympics.



A legend of long distance running, Mo Farah won the 3,000m, 5,000m and 10,000m events of the Diamond League. He would also go on to win the 5,000m and 10,000m in the Rio Olympics.

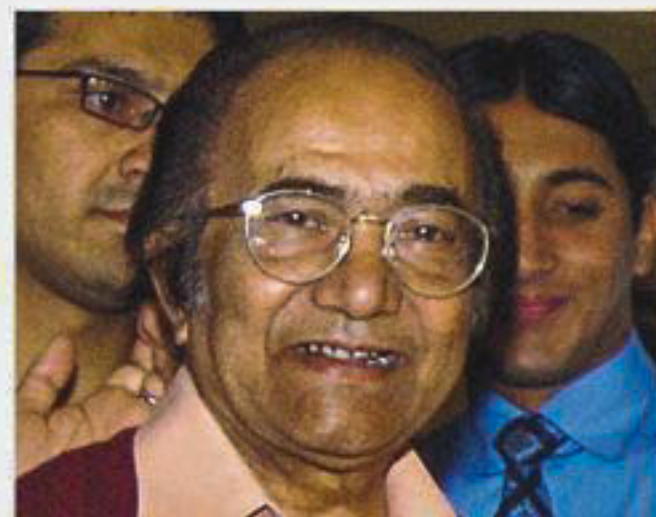


Mustafizur Rahman broke new ground by becoming the first foreigner to win the Emerging Player of IPL. He then became the first Bangladeshi to win an ICC award as he was named the ICC Emerging Player of the Year.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



MUHAMMAD ALI
1942-2016



HANIF MOHAMMAD
1934-2016



CESARE MALDINI
1932-2016



CARLOS ALBERTO
1944-2016



ARNOLD PALMER
1929-2016



JOHANN CRUYFF
1947-2016



JOAO HAVELANGE
1916-2016



MARTIN CROWE
1962-2016