

Solskjaer's daughter makes MU debut

REUTERS

The Solskjaer family wrote another chapter in Manchester United's history on Sunday when Karna made her debut for the women's team, following in the footsteps of Ole Gunnar as the pair become the first father and daughter to play for the club.

The Norwegian, 19, came off the bench in the 85th minute of a 2-0 FA Cup win away to Bridgwater United as her father, who was renowned for his goalscoring feats as a substitute, proudly watched on from the stands. "Obviously she's got a famous dad but she wants to be famous in her own right," said Man United women's team's coach Marc Skinner. "We were privileged to have Ole as our manager, as well as a wonderful player for this club."

Eriksen joins Brentford

REUTERS, London

Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen joined Premier League club Brentford on Monday, seven months after he suffered a cardiac arrest during a European Championship match.

Eriksen, who collapsed during the game against Finland in Copenhagen and was given life-saving CPR treatment in front of shocked fans and team mates, has signed for Brentford as a free agent for the rest of the season.

"I'm happy to announce I've signed for Brentford and can't wait to get started and hopefully see you all very soon," Eriksen said in a video post.

The former Tottenham Hotspur and Inter Milan player is now fitted with a special heart-starting device known as an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD).

Eriksen, 29, has not played a competitive match since his collapse, although he has been training with his former club Ajax Amsterdam to build up his fitness.



Dwayne Bravo breaks out a unique dance move after dismissing Khulna Tigers opener Andre Fletcher as Shakib Al Hasan looks on. Shakib, instrumental with both bat and ball, inspired Fortune Barishal to a six-run victory in the second match of the BPL in Chattogram yesterday. [Bottom] Faf du Plessis (83) and Cameron Delpoit (51) added an unbroken 97-run stand for the fourth-wicket as Comilla Victorians made it three out of three with a 52-run demolition of Chattogram Challengers in the day's first match.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Did change in leadership reflect in tactics?

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

The batting effort of Chattogram Challengers has largely been dependent on their two foreigners -- Will Jacks and Benny Howell -- throughout the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). While Jacks provides the runs at the top, Howell arrives to finish with a flourish. Whereas in the middle, the local stars such as Afif Hossain, Sabbir Rahman and Mehedi Hasan Miraz have not been able to gun down big runs.

Meanwhile, national team spinner Nasum Ahmed's form has been the only constant for Chattogram so far. Even in the match against Sylhet Sixers, with Mehedi Miraz replaced as captain, the bowlers were often confused about their approach.

Thus, when Chattogram owner Rifat Uzzaman had told the media yesterday that the team management's reason for taking away captaincy responsibilities from Miraz was due to differences in technical planning, it raised eyebrows. "The kind of cricket we were playing was high risk and there were some differences with Miraz in that regard," he had said yesterday.

According to their team sources, coach Paul Nixon had given them some directions before leaving for England. And yet, when Chattogram turned up for their game against Comilla Victorians, the same patterns emerged.

Nasum tried to contain with the ball but Comilla's Faf du Plessis, hitting a 55-ball 83, and Liton Das, notching a smooth-sailing 34-ball 47, had applied early pressure before Cameron Delpoit finished



with a flurry of boundaries, scoring a 23-ball 51, as Comilla piled up 183 for three.

The same pattern then emerged with the bat. While Will Jacks fired at the top, the rest of the top and middle-order, including Miraz, was ineffective. At one point, Howell ended up joining opener Jacks in the middle as the latter kept seeing partners departing from the other end.

Unlike other matches, Howell, with 12 overs to go, did not take advantage, departing for just two. Thus, Jacks' 42-ball 69 was the only sublime effort in the chase as Comilla bowled Chattogram out for 131 runs to bag a big 52-run win.

While change of leadership was supposed to be about more innovative, high-risk cricket, how much the change in leadership was reflected in the on-field tactics, is up for debate.

Shakib turns it up a notch as Khulna stutter to Comilla spin

Fortune Barishal skipper Shakib Al Hasan turned it up a notch with the bat before his tactical manoeuvring as captain in Barishal's bowling Powerplay worked wonders in defending a small target. There was also some evidence of Shakib's work with power-hitting skills. With his side succumbing to Khaled Ahmed's pace early after the right-arm pacer accounted for both Barishal openers Dwayne Bravo and Chris Gayle, Shakib had to not only stabilise the innings but also pick up the scoring rate. A heave over cow corner and then guiding a shot over mid-off for six certainly showed that he found some joy from new technical work. His 41 off 27, which included three sixes, along with Nazmul Hossain's 40-ball 45, saw Fortune manage 145 all out, as the rest of the batting line-up failed to make significant contributions.

However, Shakib then adjusted to the small total knowing he can count on Afghan spin wizard Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Only one over of pace came in the Powerplay as Shakib and Mujeeb bowled eight overs on the trot. At the end of nine overs, Khulna reached 31 for 2 with Shakib accounting for both wickets. The pressure created in that spell then produced two wickets for Bravo as Khulna slumped to 35 for four in 10 overs.

Miraz, Ctg CAUTIONED

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) governing council member secretary Ismail Haider Mollick informed yesterday that the board will investigate the incident between Mehedi Hasan Miraz and his franchise Chattogram Challengers after the cricketer was stripped of captaincy, creating a chaotic scene throughout the day on Sunday.

Change in leadership midway through BPL is nothing new as the previous editions of the tournament saw similar incidents quite a few times. However, there were whispers that the incident that saw Miraz lose captaincy of the side just hours before their game against Sylhet Sunrisers on Saturday could involve match-fixing issues.

But the influential board director said that the BCB's anti-corruption unit has been closely monitoring every single game in the tournament. "Not only this but BCB's anti-corruption team closely follows every game. We have one person from the anti-corruption unit with each team and they are monitoring closely. Not only BCB, the ICC is also following everything properly," said Mollick.

"We are yet to observe anything suspicious. What we have seen through the press conference is that there was a miscommunication. We will call them for a hearing and will try to know the entire matter," he added.

Following a fallout with the Chattogram Challengers management, Miraz was on the verge of leaving the team hotel and depart for Dhaka from Chattogram before an olive branch was extended.

Miraz even featured for Chattogram in their game Comilla Victorians yesterday.



Four-in-four for Holder

AFP, Bridgetown

Jason Holder took four wickets in four balls during a dramatic last over as the West Indies beat England by 17 runs in the fifth and deciding Twenty20 international on Sunday for a 3-2 series win.

England needed

20 runs to reach a target of 180 when Barbados all-rounder Holder began to bowl the final over of their innings at his Kensington Oval home ground.

The paceman removed Chris Jordan and Sam Billings with his second and

third legitimate deliveries of the over via the aid of catches at deep midwicket by substitute fielder Hayden Walsh Jr.

Former West Indies captain Holder then had Adil Rashid taken at deep square leg before ending the match when he bowled Saqib Mahmood, both batsmen out for golden ducks, as England were dismissed for 162.



West Indies legend Sir Garfield Sobers congratulates Jason Holder after unique feat.

Federer, Djokovic praise Nadal

AFP, Paris

Rafael Nadal's record 21st Grand Slam title, secured in an epic Australian Open final on Sunday was hailed by both Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic who had been tied with him on 20.

Nadal, 35, battled back from two sets down to defeat Russia's Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 in a gruelling 5hr 24min in Melbourne.

It crowned an extraordinary effort from Nadal at the year's opening major, having to modify his game to compensate for a degenerative bone disease in his left foot that ended his 2021 season last August.

Federer, who came close to becoming the first to 21 when he lost in five sets against Djokovic in the 2019 Wimbledon final, missed the Australian Open recovering from knee surgery.

"To my friend and great rival @

rafaelnadal, heartfelt congratulations on becoming the first man to win 21 Grand Slam singles titles," 40-year-old Federer posted on Instagram.

"A few months ago we were joking about both being on crutches, amazing. Never underestimate a great champion. "Your incredible work ethic, dedication and fighting spirit are an inspiration to me and countless others around the world."

Djokovic's hopes of being the first to 21 were dashed when he was deported from Australia prior to the Grand Slam over vaccination issues.

However, the 34-year-old Serbian tweeted his congratulations -- after he had first saluted Ashleigh Barty on her title win on Saturday.

"Amazing achievement. Always impressive fighting spirit that prevailed another time.

"Enhorabuena (Congratulations -- followed by applause, trophy and thumbs up icons)."



Ad-hoc committee at BASM

SPORTS REPORTER

Having dissolved the previous executive committee of Bangladesh Association of Sports Medicine (BASM), the National Sports Council (NSC) recently instituted an ad-hoc committee of BASM comprising 22 members.

Professor Dr Md Sharfuddin Ahmed, Vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, was made the president while associate professor Dr Md Ali Emran, who has been involved with sports for last two decades, was named the secretary general of the committee, which also features four vice-presidents, one treasurer, three joint secretaries and 12 members.