

'I still can't believe what's happening'

AFP, Nur Sultan

Newly-crowned Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina on Tuesday dismissed Russian claims that she was its "product" as she received a hero's welcome in Kazakhstan, which she represented at the tournament.

Russian and Belarusian players were banned from Wimbledon this year after Russia sent troops to Ukraine but Moscow-born Rybakina was able to play as she had switched her allegiance to Kazakhstan in 2018.

At the weekend Russia appeared to claim her Grand Slam success when Russian tennis chief Shamil Tarpishev described Rybakina as "our product". "The transition from a junior to a professional career is very difficult," Rybakina, 23, told journalists in Kazakhstan when asked to comment on the "product" tag. "So I am of course not really in agreement with that phrasing."

"I always feel the support of our compatriots. Yesterday, upon arrival in Kazakhstan, I saw how many people came to meet me. I still can't believe what's happening," Rybakina said during a meeting with Kazakh Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov on Tuesday.



Novak Djokovic and Elena Rybakina hold their trophies at the Wimbledon champions dinner on Monday. Djokovic won a seventh Wimbledon title and 21st Grand Slam crown on Sunday with a four-set triumph over Nick Kyrgios while Rybakina powered back from a set down against Ons Jabeur to win her maiden Grand Slam title on Saturday. PHOTO: TWITTER

Kyrgios 'needs Sigmund Freud', says McEnroe

AFP, London

Three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe said Tuesday that controversial Australian Nick Kyrgios "needs Sigmund Freud" to sort out the "demons" in his game.

Kyrgios carved a sometimes thrilling, often controversial path to the final at the All England Club where he lost in four sets on Sunday to Novak Djokovic.

A series of outbursts saw the 27-year-old fined and he was described as "evil" and "a bully" by third round opponent Stefanos Tsitsipas.

But there was some impressive and inventive hitting, not least in the final, where he cluttered 30 aces and 62 winners in total. "The guy is a genius out there the way he plays," McEnroe told the BBC, adding that Kyrgios needed some advice from the father of psychoanalysis.

"He needs Sigmund Freud to come out of the grave and somehow figure out a way to keep this guy going for a couple of years because we could use him."

"It's unbelievable, he moves the needle for us in tennis. We need this big time but we don't need him to try half the time."

Off court the world number 45, who has admitted to 'tanking' during matches, also faces a court hearing in Canberra next month in relation to an allegation of common assault.

Bowlers key in Tigers' ODI success

SPORTS REPORTER

Even though Bangladesh are struggling to adapt to the longest and the shortest formats of the game, the Tigers continue to impress in the ODI format with a set template that has brought them success over the years.

Tamim Iqbal's side already lead their ongoing three-match series 1-0 after their comfortable six-wicket win over West Indies in the first ODI. And the visitors will be eyeing yet another ODI series win over the Windies when they meet in the second ODI in Guyana today.

A calculative approach in the format has made the ODIs the most preferred format for the Tigers over the years.

While a settled batting department might be pointed out as the secret behind the Tigers' success in the format, it, in fact, is their bowling unit that has often laid the platform for Bangladesh in ODIs.

It was left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam who led from the front in the first ODI, picking up four wickets as he unsettled the Windies' batting order with two double-wicket overs. Off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz also remained instrumental, bagging three wickets, as the Tigers eventually restricted West Indies to a small total.

While Shoriful and Miraz were rewarded for their efforts with wickets, the likes of Nasum Ahmed and Taskin Ahmed did their part silently. Nasum, on his debut, conceded only 16 in his eight overs that included three maidens as the left-arm spinner played a major role in keeping things tight.

Like Nasum, right-arm quick Taskin also remained wicketless but still managed



to impress. However, the only blemish in the bowling department was Mustafizur Rahman, who was unable to contribute according to his potential.

Despite being the most experienced bowler in the Tigers' lineup, Mustafizur hasn't been able to live up to expectations in recent times. The ace left-arm paceman could blame his luck as his figures of 34 for one in eight overs would have looked much better had he not seen two catches dropped off his bowling.

The team management will surely be expecting a lot more from Mustafizur in the coming days and the 'cutter master' would definitely want to reassume the leading role in the Tigers' pace unit.

Going back to the topic of bowling being the mantra for success for Bangladesh in

ODIs, it is the way the Tigers have managed to control the middle overs of an innings that gave them edge over the opponents in recent years.

In fact, among the Test-playing nations, Bangladesh remain on top when it comes to economy rates in the middle overs in recent times. The Tigers maintained an economy rate of 4.57 from overs between 11 to 40 since 2019.

Even in the first ODI against the Windies, Bangladesh conceded just 84 runs from overs 8 to 33. They also managed to pick six wickets during this period while bowling as many as 161 dots in a 41-over contest.

With the chance to seal the series, the Tigers' bowlers will once again be looking to lay the platform for the win in Guyana today.

Australia lose top Test championship spot

AFP, Galle

Australia lost their top World Test Championship position to South Africa Tuesday after they were defeated by Sri Lanka in the second match of their series.

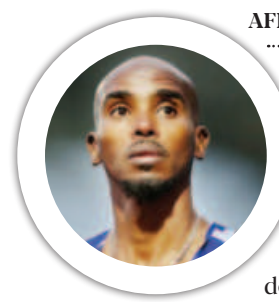
The island nation completed a stunning innings and 39-run victory over captain Pat Cummins' Australia in Galle on Monday to end the two-match series level at 1-1. The result shook up the championship table with Sri Lanka climbing to third as the race to make the final heats up.

Australia's next Test outing is at home against West Indies in November, while Sri Lanka host Pakistan for a two-match series starting Saturday.

Kane Williamson's New Zealand won the inaugural Test championship final last year, beating India in Southampton.

'The truth is I'm not who you think I am'

AFP, London



Olympic great Mo Farah won praise from across Britain's political spectrum Tuesday after the shock revelation that he was illegally trafficked as a child to the country and forced to work in domestic servitude.

The 39-year-old distance runner, one of Britain's best-loved and most successful athletes, told a BBC documentary that his real name is Hussein Abdi Kahin.

Rather than moving to the UK as a refugee from Somalia with his parents as previously claimed, Farah said he came from Djibouti aged eight or nine with a woman he had never met, was given a false identity, and then made to look after another family's children.

In fact, he said, his father was killed in civil unrest in Somalia when Farah was aged four and his mother, Aisha, and two brothers live in the breakaway state of Somaliland.

"The truth is I'm not who you think I am," Farah said in the documentary, explaining that his mother wanted him far removed from Somalia's civil wars.

The admission could have raised questions about Farah's UK citizenship, but the interior ministry said he was in the clear.

'Changing coach every year is hard'

REUTERS

French midfielder Paul Pogba conceded the volume of different coaches he played under at Manchester United hindered his chances of success in England, while he also insisted he is pleased to be "home" at Juventus.

Speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, he said: "I'm happy with the choices I've made in my life. Sometimes you make choices that don't go your way but I'm happy with the years in Manchester. I grew up, I learned, I became a man."

"Changing (United) coach every year is hard - this was a difficult aspect for me. Then there were a few injuries, but I think it was also a mental thing - playing and not playing makes you lose pace. There is a bit of everything: coach, team, position. All this has blocked me a bit."



Manchester United striker Anthony Martial celebrates his goal with Bruno Fernandes during his side's 4-0 win in a friendly match against Liverpool at the Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok yesterday. Tens of thousands of jersey-wearing fans surged into the stadium to witness pre-season clash of the Premier League titans. PHOTO: AFP

Bumrah six-for crushes England

AFP, London

Jasprit Bumrah took career-best one-day international figures of 6-19 as India dismissed 50-over world champions England for just 110 at the Oval on Tuesday.

Fast bowler Bumrah produced an opening burst of 4-9 in five overs against an England side featuring arguably their strongest batting line-up at this level since their 2019 World Cup final triumph.

England avoided the embarrassment of being dismissed for less than their record low completed ODI score of 86 all out against Australia at Manchester's Old Trafford in 2001.

An innings featuring four ducks in the top six - Jason Roy, Joe Root, Ben Stokes and Liam Livingstone were all out for nought - ended with England bowled out with nearly half of their 50 overs remaining.

The game is the first of a three-match series between England against 2023 50-over World Cup hosts India.

Bumrah, 28, returned to clean up Brydon Carse and David Willey to surpass his only other five-wicket haul of his 71 match ODI career - 5-27 against Sri Lanka at Pallekelle five years ago. Mohammed Shami, Bumrah's new-ball partner, took 3-31 in seven overs as he became the fastest Indian and joint-third fastest to 150 ODI wickets in matches played in his 80th appearance.

England's innings boasted just four double-figure contributions. Captain Jos Buttler top-scored with 30 and Willey managed 21.

Overcast skies and a well grassed pitch favoured the faster bowlers, but it was still a superb display by India after captain Rohit Sharma called correctly at the toss.

The tone was set when Roy, on his Surrey home ground, played on for nought attempting a booming drive to Bumrah's fourth ball of the day.

Two balls later, Joe Root - the world's top-ranked Test batsman - was undone by a Bumrah delivery that lifted off a good length.



And in the next over Test captain Ben Stokes fell for a golden duck when he inside-edged an intended drive off Shami and was brilliantly caught by diving wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.

Jonny Bairstow, fresh from two hundreds in England's seven-wicket win in the Covid-delayed fifth Test against India at Edgbaston, then fell for seven, edging an excellent Bumrah delivery to Pant, who held a diving right-handed catch. Bairstow, Root and Stokes all missed the recent T20 series which India won 2-1.

This was the first time the star trio had played a 50-over international together since England's 2019 World Cup final win over New Zealand at Lord's.

They managed just seven runs between them.

England were 26-5 in the eighth over when Livingstone, walking across his crease, was clean bowled leg-stump by Bumrah. Buttler tried to turn the tide, hitting six fours in 32 balls faced, only to hoist Shami to deep square leg, where Suryakumar Yadav held a well-judged catch just inside the rope.

No 11 Reece Topley hit England's first, and only, six with a well-struck drive off leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in the 25th over. But two balls later the innings was over when Willey, trying to scoop, was bowled by a thunderbolt Bumrah yorker.