

Short Takes

SLC looks to bring de Silva, Jayawardene on board to arrest national team's decline

Colombo [Sri Lanka], Sept. 11 : If reports are to be believed, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) is set to rope in former skipper Aravinda de Silva in an advisory role in an attempt to arrest the decline of the national team.

Along with de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Brendon Kuruppu, Graeme Labrooy, perhaps even Mahela Jayawardene are the names that SLC is mulling over.

However, it is yet to be seen whether these players are willing to become associated with SLC given its present state remains to be seen.

De Silva, who resigned from his position of head of cricket committee after differences with the officials of cricket board earlier in May, would return to his role, reports ESPNcricinfo.

It is also believed that the SLC would like Mahanama, Kuruppu and Labrooy to become selectors, to replace the Sanath Jayasuriya-led committee that resigned earlier in the month. And it is also speculated that Jayawardene might be roped in as a consultant.

Labrooy and Kuruppu have confirmed that they have been approached by the cricket board while Mahanama has not confirmed the same.

ICC chairman welcomes return of international cricket to Pakistan

Dubai [UAE], Sept 11 : International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Shashank Manohar on Monday welcomed the return of international cricket in Pakistan as the Faf du Plessis-led World XI side is all set to tour the country for a three-match T20 series in Lahore this week.

Manohar said, "This is a good day for world cricket as the PCB hosts a World XI in Lahore for three T20 International games. It has been a long and tough journey as the PCB, Pakistan players and fans have been starved of the opportunity to stage, play and watch international cricket in their own country. I am hopeful that today marks the start of the safe and steady return of international cricket to Pakistan."

"The ability of Pakistan to play international cricket at home is crucial to the long term health of the game in Pakistan and one of the main reasons why the ICC established the Pakistan Task Force under the leadership of Giles Clarke, to explore, in partnership with the PCB, how we can get international cricket back to Pakistan safely and on a regular basis."

"I send both teams and the PCB the very best wishes from the whole cricket family for a competitive series that the passionate fans in Pakistan can enjoy. I sincerely hope that this week's games mark the start of a steady flow of international cricket to this great cricket nation," Manohar added.

Fulfilling family's wishes through football: Sanjeev Stalin

New Delhi , Sept. 11 : Not many football players score their first goal from the half-line in fact, it is rather a rarity when a goal is scored from the half-line in football. But when Sanjeev Stalin struck the ball from the half-way line little did he know that he was articulating one of the rarest forms of scoring goals in football.

In that moment, all Sanjeev could think about was how his father would have been feeling seeing him score a stunner. "My first goal was from the half-way line in a local football tournament and it was an amazing feeling. All I could think about was how happy would my father be at that moment!"

"My father played football, but he never played it professionally, in fact, he introduced me to the sport and my father had a dream of seeing me play football for the nation", Stalin says. Hence when one asks Stalin who is favourite footballer is, the defender thinks little about Messi or Ronaldo and quips "My father Stalin senior".

"I am what I am because of him. He made everything possible for me in life. We have clothes' shop on the footpath and my father has been my biggest inspiration to never give up in life" But that is not it. "I started playing football barefoot and the first time I wore cleats, it felt uneasy", quips Sanjeev. "But after a while, I grew used to them. I was 10 when I first joined the Chandigarh Football Academy and my life changed from there."

Nadal beats Anderson to win third US Open title

New York , Sep 11 : Rafael Nadal against Kevin Anderson in the US Open final shaped up as quite a mismatch - and that's exactly what it was.

With his game at a high level at the end of an unusually easy path through a Grand Slam field, Nadal overwhelmed first-time major finalist Anderson 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday to win his third championship at Flushing Meadows. It is the No. 1-ranked Nadal's second Grand Slam title of the year and 16th overall. Among men, only Roger Federer has more, with 19. Each of those two longtime rivals won two of the four majors in 2017, marking a return of both to the heights of their sport. Not only did an injury-hampered Nadal not win a Grand Slam tournament in 2015 or 2016 - his first such shutouts since 2004, when he was still a teenager -- but he didn't even make it to a final in that span. It seems safe to say that, at age 31, he is once again the Nadal of old. "Personally, it's just unbelievable what happened this year," Nadal said, "after a couple of years with some troubles, injuries, some moments playing not good." At No. 32, Anderson was the lowest-ranked US Open men's finalist since the ATP computer rankings began in 1973. The 31-



year-old South African never had been past the quarterfinals at any major tournament in 33 previous appearances, so when he won his semifinal on Friday, he climbed into the stands to celebrate. There would be no such joy for him on this day. Nadal simply dominated every facet of the two-and-a-half-hour final.

"I know we're the same age, but I feel like I've been watching you my whole life," said Anderson, who is less than a month older than Nadal. "You really have been an idol of mine. And it's tough playing you. You proved it again tonight." Nadal added to his US Open triumphs in 2010 and 2013 and improved to 16-7 in

Grand Slam finals. For the first time since 2013, he appeared in three in a single season, losing to Federer at the Australian Open in January and beating Stan Wawrinka for his record 10th French Open trophy in June.

Nadal's career haul also includes two trophies from Wimbledon and one from the Australian Open. All of his big victories have come while being coached by his uncle, Toni, who is now stepping aside. The US Open was the last Grand Slam event of their partnership.

Not since Pete Sampras at Wimbledon in 2000 had a man won a Slam tournament without facing any opponents ranked in the top 20. In New York this time, the bracket was

weakened by the injury withdrawals of three of the top five men: past champions Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Wawrinka.

Plus, Nadal did not need to deal with Federer: The potential for a semifinal, which would have been their first US Open meeting, was dashed when Juan Martin del Potro eliminated Federer in the quarterfinals. Nadal then beat del Potro, the 2009 champion who is now ranked 28th, in the semis.

Much like Nadal's 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 win against Wawrinka at Roland Garros, the beauty of this match was not in its competitiveness - not by a long shot - but in an appreciation for one participant's absolute superiority. Forehands whipped up the line. Two-handed backhands ripped cross-court with ferocity. Spinning, back-to-the-net returns of serves darted in at him at more than 130 mph and helped him break Anderson four times.

He even came up with some terrific volleys, winning the point on all 16 of his trips to the net. Anderson, meanwhile, finished 16-for-34 in that category. Another difference-maker: Nadal never faced a break point, though that was more a reflection of his talent once the ball was in play than any particularly dominant serving.

Juventus line up Camp Nou test for Barcelona

Madrid , Sep 11 : FC Barcelona kick off their Champions League campaign with their toughest challenge of the season to date when last year's beaten finalists, Juventus visit the Camp Nou here on Tuesday.

Juventus may have lost last season's final 1-4 to Real Madrid, but they claimed Barcelona's scalp along the way, beating the Catalan's 3-0 in Turin and holding on for a 0-0 draw in Camp Nou.

Barcelona will welcome the Italian Champions as joint leaders in the Liga Santander after a 5-0 thrashing of local rival Espanyol on Saturday night kept intact their 100 percent league record, but this game will be a stern test of their

credentials. Leo Messi has had a flying start to the season and has already scored five goals, while Luis Suarez is also fully fit after missing the start of the campaign with an ankle injury.

Meanwhile record signing Ousmane Dembele made his debut on Saturday and it will be interesting to see if Barca coach Ernesto Valverde puts him in the starting 11 on Tuesday or whether he keeps faith in Gerard Deulofeu, who has offered pace and enthusiasm in this start to the campaign.

Valverde has brought stability back to Barca and apart from the nine goals they have scored at the start of the campaign, he will be just as happy

with the three clean sheets his side have kept.

As a result it is hard to see him making too many changes to the Barca defence, especially as Sergi Roberto is still not fully fit to challenge Nelson Semedo at right back.

Juventus are in a similar situation in Italy, where the side coached by Massimo Allegri too have won their three opening games of the season, scoring 10 goals and conceding just two.

Last season saw them shut Barca out in Camp Nou and a draw would be another good result to kick off

the European campaign of two sides whose aim is to make it all the way to Kiev for the World Cup in May.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organization)

Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/CON/SPTR/2017/Aug/01 Dated 01.09.2017

Sealed open tenders are invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works:

Tender No. Dy.CECON-SPTR-MNTC-2017-

Name of work: Maintenance of Railway structure like Dy. CE/Con SPTR office building, Officer's Rest House at Silapathar, Electric Sub-Station & RPSF Barrack at Silapathar & Dambuk, Subordinate Rest House at Murkongselek Station, Junction Cabin, Godown, Police Out Post, Road, Drainage including all ancillary works in the above location in connection with bogie Bridge Project at North Bank for the period of (twenty four) months.

1. Approx. cost of the work (Tender Value) : Rs. 3,03,00,000.19

2. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 3,01,51,000

3. Completion period of the work : 24 (twenty four) months

4. Cost of Tender Form (document) : RS. 10,000.00

5. Tender document available : From .01.09.2017 up to 14.03.00 hrs of

6. Date & Time of opening Tender : 06.10.2017 at 11.30 hrs in Dy. CE/Con/Silapathar office

Detailed Tender Notice may be seen in N.F. Railway (Construction) website www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Engineer/CON N.F. Railway, Silapathar. For an on behalf of the President of India

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NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organization)

(TWO PACKET TENDER)

TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2017/JULY/24 Dated: 24-07-2017

Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works:

1. TENDER NO: CE/CON/N-K/MB/2017/07 Name of work: Super- Structure works of major Bridges having spans 6.1m PSC Slab (15 bridges having 56 spans), 12.2m PSC Slab (21 bridges having 63 spans), total= 36 bridges in between km 0.0 to 176.0 in connection with NBQ-GLPT-KYQ Doubling project of N.F. Railway.

Tender value: Rs. 277671529 Earnest Money: Rs. 1538360

Completion period: 18 (Eighteen) months Cost of Tender documents: Rs. 10,000/-

2. Date & Time of Submission of Tender From: 29-Aug-17 To: Up to 14-30 hours of 12-Sep-17

3. Tender Opening: 12-Sep-17 at 15.30 hours at the office of General Manager/Con, N.F. Railway, Maligaon, Guwahati-11

4. Availability of Tender Document: The complete information and tender document of e-Tender will be available at www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are required to submit their bid on this website only.

The tender Notice will also be available in Northeast Frontier Railway/Construction web site in www.nfrlyconstruction.org

(a) Tenderers are compulsorily required to submit Affidavit as per Annexure-C of tender document without that the offer will be considered as incomplete and will be rejected summarily.

For Chief Engineer/Con-9, N.F. Railway, Maligaon. E-Tender Notice Dy. CEEICON / MLG I 06 I 201 7 dated 08-09-2017

Notice for E- tendering works contract of DY.CEE/CON/MLG Notice No. DY.CEE/CON/MLG/O6/2017

Dated 05-09-2017 works tender through E- tendering system are invited from valid contractor for the works as detailed below:

Tender No. ELICON/03/2017-2018/Rangiya-RPAN-Naharlagun

Name of works: Electrification of newly constructed pit line at Naharlagun stabling yard in connection with Rangiya (RNY)-Naharlagun (NHLN) Project & electrification of sick line shed with provision for power supply to EOT crane, welding line, pre-cooling point etc. & supply, installation, testing and commissioning of constant torque, 3 phase solid state -alternator testing drive at NHLN sick line in connection with RNY-NHLN project & at NHLN commissioning of 2x500 KVA DG sets along with distribution panel & other testing equipments, wiring & electrification of office building and store of SSE(E)/NHLN & construction of 11/0.4 KV 2x500 KVA sub-station at new location at NHLN & provision of portal as well as lighting for illumination of cat walk in BG pit at NHLN yard in connection with RNY-MZS project & electrification of RPF office, Barrack and Quarters at Silapathar and Naharlagun and other auxiliary work at different locations for RNY-RPAN-NHLN project.

(i) Tender Value: Rs. 7,15,62,867/-, (ii) Earnest Money :Rs. 5,07,814/- (iii) Cost of tender documents Rs. 10,000/- (iv) Completion period of works: 1 Yr (365 days)

(v) Validity Offer: 120 days (vi) Date & time of (a) Closing tender: 13.00 hrs of 12.10.2017 (b) Opening of tender: 13.10.2017 of 11.00 hrs.

Note: 1. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 13.00 hrs. of 12.10.2017 for respective tender tenders in website. The tender requires to submit their e-tender on this website http: www.ireps.govt.in only.

2. The tender notice will also be available in Northeast Frontier Railway/Construction website in www.nfrlyconstruction.org.

3. Tender other than in the form of e-tendering shall not be accepted against above e-tender. For this purpose, contractors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class III Digital signature certificate.

4. Rates entered into rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates in any other financial entity any other form/letter if attached by tenderer shall not be considered.

5. Documents being attached should be signed digitally by the tenderer.

6. All the tenderers/ Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender documents cost and earnest money only through ONLINE payment modes available on IREPS portal line net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker cheque Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are NOT allowed.

7. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Documents cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.

8. No post tender correspondence will be done with the participant tender(s) for deficient credentials noted during scrutiny of tender/ offer nor an credential will be accepted after opening of the tender and the offer shall be decided on the basis of submitted/credentials download with offer only

9. Tender will be opened at the specified time and date. In case the specified date is declared a holiday, the tender would be opened at the same time on the next working days.

10. In case of any difficulty, help desk available on the website of IREPS any be approached.

11. In IREPS tender documents should be available from 11.09.2017

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/CON, N.F. Railway, Maligaon, Guwahati-11

For & on behalf of the President of India.

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Hazard wants to win Champions League with Chelsea

London , Sept 11 : Chelsea winger Eden Hazard feels the time is right for the club to try and win the UEFA Champions League again ahead of their campaign opener against Qarabag at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday.

"This year is really important (in the Champions League)," Hazard was quoted as saying by the Daily Mirror after Chelsea's 2-1 win over Leicester on Saturday.

"I just reached the semi-final with Chelsea, when we lost to Atletico Madrid [in 2014], so it's in my head to win this trophy." I have won the Premier League, I have won the title in France, I have won cups, but big players always want to win the Champions League. I think now

it is time to win this. We have a good squad, we have a good manager, so we are ready for it," he added.

The London-based club coached by Antonio Conte are the last English team to triumph in Europe's elite club competition.

Chelsea were crowned champions in a dramatic fashion with a penalty shootout victory over Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena in 2012.

Chelsea are the defending champions in the English Premier League but did not take part in the Champions League last season as they failed to qualify under now Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho.

"As a player, you want to be in the Champions League, but last year we just had to watch it on the television. That isn't a good feeling," Hazard added.

"I hate having to watch it. I don't like watching any games. You want to play these kind of games because every time you play in the Champions League it's a big game and everybody is watching you, so yeah we are happy to be back."

Hazard is working his way back to full fitness after sitting out the summer with a broken ankle.

"I feel ready, ready to be part of the team. I had the chance to play with my national team and did a good job there (over the international break) and for the

last month I've just been working hard to be fit," he added.

On club-record signing Alvaro Morata, who in Hazard's absence has emerged as a key player for Chelsea, the Belgian said:

"Like you saw, I saw he is a good player -- I saw that he scores a lot with his head, now he needs to score with his feet," Hazard was quoted as saying by Goal.

"He is a top player. He can score every time. When he scores, we win the game so I think he is good.

"He is in good form. Even in the (Spanish) national team he scored three times so I hope that for Chelsea, he can score a lot of goals," he added.

ESPNCricinfo quoted Akram as saying. Akram confirmed that the Bangladesh all-rounder had made the request in a bid to prolong his international career.

"We can't always be thinking about us. We should also keep his fatigue into consideration," he said.

Shakib, who has kept himself available for the limited-overs series, has been Bangladesh's most consistent performer in the last 10 years, having played 51 Tests so

far while missing just seven since becoming a regular member of the side.

It will be the first time that a Bangladesh player will voluntarily miss a Test.

Bangladesh squad: Mushfiqur Rahim (capt), Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Imrul Kayes, Sabbir Rahman, Mahmudullah, Liton Das, Mehidy Hasan, Taijul Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Rubel Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Subashis Roy, Mominul Haque.

Bangladesh recall Mahmudullah for Proteas Tests

Dhaka [Bangladesh], Sept. 11 : Bangladesh have recalled batsman Mahmudullah in their Test squad for the upcoming two-match series against South Africa beginning September 28.

Meanwhile, pacers Subashis Roy and Rubel Hossain have also been included in the 15-member squad in a bid to strengthen their pace attack.

Star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was granted a break from South Africa Tests and Nasir Hossain, who underperformed in

his comeback series against Australia, were excluded.

Akram Khan, the BCB's cricket operations chairman, said that although Shakib would be allowed to take rest during Bangladesh's tour of South Africa, he has the option of playing the second Test.

"Shakib wrote a letter to us asking for a six-month break. He can miss the first Test against South Africa but if he wants, he can play the second Test. He will not be traveling with the team but he can tell us what he decides to do,"

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