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SPORTS

CRICKET

ICC UNDER-19 CRICKET WORLD CUP

India defeated host and defending champion Australia to win ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup. In the final match played at Townsville in Australia on 26 August 2012, the Indian under -19 squad led by Unmukt Chand beat Australian side by 6 wickets. Skipper Unmukt Chand scored unbeaten 111 runs leading his team to a glorious victory.

Batting first the Australian team scored 225 runs with the loss of 8 wickets. Australian captain William Bosisto scored unbeaten 87 runs. India started strongly but lost 4 wickets on just 97 runs. Subsequently skipper Chand guided the Indian team to a 6 wickets victory in the 48th over.

William Bosisto, the Australian skipper received the Man of the Tournament award. Anamul Haque of Bangladesh scored 365 runs, highest in the tournament. Reece Topley of England claimed 19 wickets and remained the leading wicket taker of the tournament.

This victory marked third under-19 world cup title for India after Mohammad Kaif in 2000 and Virat Kohli in 2008 had led the team to the tournament victory.

A total of 16 teams participated in the tournament. The teams were put into four groups A, B, C and D. India was placed in group C along with Papua New Guinea, West Indies and Zimbabwe. Australia was placed

in group A alongside Ireland, England and Nepal.

ICC UNDER-19 WORLD CUP

The ICC Under-19 World Cup started as an 8-team event in 1988. The tournament was not staged after its first edition in 1988 till 1998 and since then has been organised by the ICC as a biennial event. The number of competing teams in the tournament has increased from eight in 1988 to the present 16 giving an opportunity for a number of associate and affiliate teams to showcase its talent.

INDIA BEAT NEW ZEALAND BY 2-0 TEST SERIES

India won the second cricket test against New Zealand by 5 wickets on 3 September 2012. Chasing a target of 261 set by New Zealand on the fourth day of the second and final Test in Bangalore, India overhauled the target in the post-tea session with one full day remaining. Virat Kohli on 51 and Skipper MS Dhoni on 48 remained not out. Kohli, who had made 103 in the first innings, was adjudged man of the match, while Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was named man of the series. With this, India won the 2 match series 2-0. India had won the first test at Hyderabad by an innings and 115 runs.

SOUTH AFRICA IS WORLD'S NUMBER ONE CRICKET TEAM

South Africa replaced England as the World's Number One Test Cricket team. The feat was achieved after its 2-0 victory over England in the three Test-match series, which

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ended at Lord's Cricket Ground in London on 21 August 2012. England had been the top team in the Reliance ICC Test Championship table since August 2011 when it dethroned India while South Africa has assumed the number one spot for the first time since November 2009. The latest ICC Test Championship table is given below:

1. South Africa 120 points
2. England 117 points
3. Australia 116 points
4. Pakistan 109
5. India 104
6. Sri Lanka 98
7. West Indies 90
8. New Zealand 80
9. Bangladesh 0

Note: Zimbabwe is presently unranked, as it has played insufficient matches.

VVS LAXMAN ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT

V.V.S. Laxman, on 18 August 2012 announced his retirement from international cricket, ending a glorious career spanning 16 years. Laxman played 134 Tests, amassing 8781 runs at an average of 45.97. He scored 17 hundreds and 56 half centuries and earned the sobriquet Very Very Special. Laxman made his Test debut in 1996 against South Africa at Ahmadabad. Laxman, played 86 ODI matches for an aggregate of 2338 at an average of 30.76. But he could never become the part of Indian team in any cricket world cup edition.

FASTEST PLAYER TO REACH 3000 ODI RUNS

Hashim Amla, the star South African batsman, became the fastest player to score 3000 runs in one-day international on 29 August 2012. Amla achieved the tremendous feat during the course of his 150 run individual knock that led South African squad to a 80-run victory over England at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton. Hashim Amla took a total of 57 innings to become the fastest player to score 3000 runs while his closest competitor Vivian Richards took 69 innings. Below is the list of 10 players who reached the landmark 3000 ODI runs, in quickest time, in terms of innings.

Player	Team	Innings
Hashim Amla	(RSA)	57
Vivian Richards	(WI)	69
Gordon Greenidge	(WI)	72
Gary Kirsten	(RSA)	72
Virat Kohli	(IND)	72
Graham Gooch	(ENG)	77
Kevin Pietersen	(ENG/ICC)	78
Navjot Singh Sidhu	(IND)	79
Brian Lara	(WI)	79
Boeta Dippenaar	(RSA/AFR)	79

MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI APPOINTED BRAND AMBASSADOR

Indian Cricket Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was appointed as a brand ambassador of Nepal Cricket Association, Nepal on 17 June 2012. The announcement was made by Posta Bahadur Bogati, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal. Dhoni will promote and develop cricket in Nepal. Dhoni also advised Nepal cricket officials to get

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permission from International Cricket Council to construct a stadium. The stadium would likely to promote cricket in the country. Mahendra Singh Dhoni was born on 7 July 1981 in Ranchi, Bihar. At present, he is the captain of the Indian ODI, Twenty20 team and Indian Test team. India won the 2011 Cricket World Cup under his captaincy.

KKR WON IPL - 5

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) defeated the defending champion Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to win their maiden Indian Premier League (IPL) title at the MA Chidambaram stadium in Chennai on 27 April 2012. Gautam Gambhir led Knight Riders successfully chased down the target of 192 in 19.4 overs in the summit clash of IPL-5. In a sensational pursuit, Kolkata Knight Riders chased down an imposing 191 to win its first Indian Premier League title at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, here, on Sunday. Requiring nine off the final over, two Manoj Tiwary boundaries off paceman Dwayne Bravo enabled the spirited Kolkata side register a triumph with two balls remaining. The dependable Jacques Kallis (69 off 49) and an inspired Manvinder Singh Bisla (89 off 48) set up the win. Chennai Super Kings' dream of an IPL hat-trick remained unfulfilled. The side's bowling was ordinary and fielding lacklustre. Despite a mountain of runs, the host was unable to build pressure. As the chase neared conclusion, there were two championship-defining moments. Michael Hussey, on his 37th birthday, leapt

and seemed to have pulled off a spectacular catch at the mid-wicket fence to dismiss Jacques Kallis. The Aussie, however, stepped over the line taking the sphere with him. The resultant six took Kallis from 56 to 62. Then, Ben Hilfenhaus, soon after prising out Kallis with a full toss, sent down a no-ball for height in the final ball of the 19th over. In the extra delivery that followed, Shakib-Al-Hasan directed one over short-fine leg to the fence. Knight Riders now required only nine from the final over. The visitors had the final say.

During the chase, the solid Kallis' refined technique and clean strokes off either feet lifted the levels of batsmanship. He played an exquisite straight-drive off R. Ashwin and a flowing cover-drive off left-arm spinner Shadab Jakati. Bisla slashed and flashed boundaries square off the wicket, cover-drove with panache and pulled with daring. The manner in which Bisla converted the length pegged back the CSK bowlers. Ashwin and Bravo suffered. The right-hander, however, was fortunate when a leaping Hilfenhaus could not cling on to a Bisla offering off Ashwin. Bisla, eventually, succumbed to a slower delivery from Albie Morkel. The unheralded Bisla had been a controversial inclusion in the side as the KKR think-tank – to maintain the balance of its attack – dropped the game-changing Brendon McCullum to include paceman Brett Lee in one of the four overseas slots. And Bisla came in as a wicket-keeper batsman for injured paceman L. Balaji. The Knight Riders' start was disastrous. Its skipper Gautam Gambhir

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heaved against a slower delivery from Ben Hilfenhaus to be castled.

Sunil Naraine, of the Kolkata Knight Riders, won the Man of the Tournament award for his impressive bowling show through out the event. He picked up 24 wickets at an average of 13.50 and an economy rate of 5.47, which was the best in the league. Chris Gayle of Royal Challengers Bangalore and Morne Morkel of Chennai Super Kings emerged as the highest run getter and leading wicket taker of the tournament respectively. Gayle scored 733 runs while Morkel topped the list of highest wicket taker with 25 wickets. Chris Gayle also hit the maximum number of sixes (59) in the IPL season 2012. A total of 9 teams had participated in the fifth season of IPL which had commenced on 4 April 2012. Kolkata Knight Riders, Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Daredevils and Mumbai Indians were the four teams which had made to the final four following a marathon league round. A total of 76 matches were played in the entire tournament.

AUSTRALIA WON CB TRIANGULAR SERIES

When it mattered most, the Australians held their nerve in the cauldron. They also played the key moments of the decider better. Defending a modest target of 231, the host finished at the right end of a tense game to triumph 2-1 in the Commonwealth Bank ODI triangular series finals at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday. In the end, only 16 runs separated Sri Lanka from Australia. Prior to this Australia won the 1st final, while Sri Lanka

came triumphant in the 2nd. The 3rd team of this tournament was India.

INDIA DROPS TO THIRD

World champion India dropped a place to third in the Reliance ICC ODI Championship cricket table after its dismal performance in the tri-series in Australia. Australia, however, stayed on course to retain the ICC ODI Championship shield after defeating Sri Lanka by 16 runs in the third and last match of the best-of-three finals in Adelaide on Thursday, while South Africa is second.

PAKISTAN WON ASIA CUP

Pakistan defeated host Bangladesh to lift Asia Cup Cricket Trophy on 22 March 2012. In a closely contested match at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium Bangladesh fell short by 3 runs while chasing the target of 237. Mushfiqur Rehman led Bangladesh team was for the first time in its cricketing history reached to final of a big tournament. Pakistan squad was led by Mishbah Ul Haq. The two teams defeated India and Sri Lanka to make it to the final. Asia Cup tournament which started in 1984, is held on every two year. The tournament sees participation of all four test playing nation in the continent. India who was the winner of maiden Asia Cup Trophy in 1984 has claimed the trophy for five times. Sri Lanka and Pakistan have lifted the trophy for 4 and 2 times respectively.

INDIA GONE PAST 320 IN LESS THAN 40 OVERS

Sent into bat, Sri Lanka scored a huge 320 for the loss of four wickets against India

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in the penultimate one-dayer of the cricket tri-series in Hobart on Tuesday. Tillakaratne Dishan scored an unbeaten 160, while Kumar Sangakkara made 105. Nobody at the Bellerive Oval gave them a chance of chasing down Sri Lanka's gargantuan 320 for four, let alone doing it in less than 40 overs to earn the bonus point and keep alive their hopes of making it to the finals. However, the Men in Blue did it in style thanks to Virat Kohli, who blasted an unbeaten 133 off 86 balls. With cameos from the other four specialist batsmen, India did the unthinkable by achieving the target off just 36.4 overs.

PAKISTAN COMPLETES A CLEAN SWEEP

Pakistan's bowlers sealed an emphatic 71-run win in the third and final Test against England, inflicting a 3-0 humiliation on the Englishmen. Pakistan won the first Test here by 10 wickets and the second at Abu Dhabi by 72 runs. Set a daunting 324-run target, England was bowled out for 252 with pacer Umar Gul taking four for 61 and off-spinner Saeed Ajmal (four for 67) to help Pakistan achieve a first-ever Test clean sweep against its opponent. Pakistan has become the first team to win a Test after being bowled out for under 100, since 1907, when England, shot out for 76, beat South Africa at Leeds. It was England's seventh series whitewash and its first at the hands of Pakistan. Pakistan has now recorded five series whitewashes, its last coming against Bangladesh in 2003. England's last series whitewash came in 2007 when it was routed by Australia 5-0.

RAHUL DRAVID ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT

Indian batting maestro and former captain Rahul Dravid, on 9 March 2012, announced his retirement from international cricket. The 39-year-old has to his credit the second highest aggregate of runs in the test history only after Sachin Tendulkar. Dravid which scored 13,288 runs in 164 Tests, including 36 hundreds has been one of the most successful batsmen India has ever produced. Dravid made his international debut on 20 June 1996 while playing at the Lord's against England. He had announced his retirement from the ODIs in England in 2011.

RICKY PONTING ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT

Former Australian Cricket Captain Ricky Ponting on 21 February 2012 announced his retirement from the One day cricket. Ricky Ponting, who led the Australian squad twice to world cup victory in 2003 and 2007, announced his retirement after he was dropped from the one day squad. Ponting's record in the one day cricket has been quite impressive as in 275 ODIs he has accumulated 13,704 runs at an average of 42.03. Next only to Sachin Tendulkar, Ponting has 30 centuries and 82 fifties in ODI in her name. Ponting had made his one day debut against South Africa on 15 February 1995. He was made the captain of Australian one day squad in 2002 during the series against South Africa.

LORD WOOLF RECOMMENDED THE RESTRUCTURING OF ICC'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

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The International Cricket Council's independent review, conducted by Lord Woolf in its report called for sweeping changes in the administration of cricket. The review recommended the restructuring of the ICC's executive board in order to make it more independent. It also stated that influence of the bigger countries and the full-members must be reduced.

The review mentioned that the bigger nations in the ICC look after their own interest rather than that of the game. Lord Woolf's report highlighted the need to reduce the strength of Full Members and the appointment of independent directors. ICC's board currently comprises the heads of all Full Member nations, three representatives from the Associates and Affiliates and the ICC's president, vice-president and chief executive.

Woolf recommended five independent directors, of which three are to be from within the game and two from outside with voting rights. The review also recommended that an ICC director should not concurrently hold any leadership or executive post with their home boards.

WOOLF REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ A culture should be established where all potential conflicts of interest are declared, assessed and addressed.
- ◆ ICC Directors should neither seek to place undue influence on other Members, nor allow themselves to be influenced inappropriately by other Members to support the interests of individual Members.
- ◆ Any side agreements between Members that

may affect the interests of the ICC and global cricket should be disclosed so that there is due transparency and their effects are understood.

- ◆ Government interference is inappropriate and is not acceptable. A level of government patronage and support of cricket is permissible.
- ◆ There should be clear and enforced limits on the value of Gifts and Hospitality (individually and aggregate) that ICC Directors and staff can give or receive. It should be mandatory to log all gifts and hospitality that are given or received.

INDIA REPLACED BOWLING COACH ERIC SIMONS

BCCI decided to sack Indian Team's bowling coach Eric Simons. The ongoing One day tri-series in Australia will be his last assignment as the bowling coach of Indian Cricket Team. Joe Daves of Queensland will take the charge of new bowling coach. Eric Simons had joined the Indian team in January 2010. He was included in the squad as the support staff to the coach Garry Kirsten. Decision about the removal of Simons came after BCCI's Working Committee Meeting in Chennai on 13 February. Sword was dangling over Simon's head after consistent poor performance of Indian bowlers in England and Australia.

PAKISTAN APPOINTED DAV WHATMORE AS COACH

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) appointed Dav Whatmore as its national team coach on 4 March 2012. Whatmore would remain on the position for next two years. Englishman Julian Fountain was slated as the fielding coach of the team. Asia Cup tournament, to be held in the later part of March

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2012, would be the first assignment of both the new coaches. Whatmore, played seven tests for Australia, has an impressive record as a coach of different teams. While he led Sri Lanka to world cup victory in 1996, he also led Bangladeshi team to their first test match and subsequent series win in 2005. Prior to Whatmore, three foreigners including Englishmen Richard Pybus and Bob Woolmer and Australian Geoff Lawson have been assigned with the task to coach Pakistani team in the past.

SOUTH AFRICA RECORDED 3-0 VICTORY AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

South Africa made a 3-0 clean sweep against New Zealand with a five-wicket victory in the third and final one-day international in Auckland on 3 march 2012. The South African squad led by AB Devilliers had recorded six wicket victories in first two matches of the series. Debutant South African pacer Marchant de Lange claimed four wickets in the match.

NEW ZEALAND CRUSHES ZIMBABWE TO 3-0 WIN

New Zealand crushed Zimbabwe by 202 runs in the final One-Day International to complete a 3-0 series whitewash over the outclassed tourists. Zimbabwe again failed to fire as New Zealand, inspired by a man-of-the-match century from skipper Brendon McCullum, plundered 373 for eight in 50 overs and then routed the Africans for 171 with six overs to spare. Captain Brendan Taylor, whose brisk 65 off 62 balls was the high point of the Zimbabwe innings, was left look-

ing for positives from a series in which the gulf between the teams progressively widened. Returning to the ground where it suffered a humiliating defeat by an innings and 301 runs in a one-off Test last month, Zimbabwe let itself down with loose bowling and shoddy fielding on a flat wicket. Zimbabwe's Brian Vitori suffered the indignity of becoming only the fifth player to concede more than 100 runs in an ODI.

SAHARA AGREED TO SPONSOR INDIAN CRICKET TEAM

Sahara Group on 17 February 2012, agreed to reverse its decision of quashing all the commercial ties with Board for Cricket Control in India. The decision was taken after series of meetings held between The BCCI and the Sahara Group to resolve the contentious issues, Sahara had cited as reasons behind voiding the deal. As per the agreement the BCCI extended the date for buying the players, from 17 February to 29 February. The deal is to provide the Pune Warriors with an opportunity to buy players from other franchises and have also re-activated their auction purse. The board also agreed to address Sahara Group's demand for reduction in franchise fee. It also gave its consent to the company to seek a strategic partner to run the IPL franchise. Existing sponsorship agreement between BCCI and Sahara Group involves Rs 3.34 cr. per Test, One-day and T 20 international. The deal is to end on 31 December 2013. Sahara in 2010 had bagged the IPL Pune Franchise in a bid worth Rs. 1700 cr. Sahara Group has been sponsoring the Indian Cricket Team since 2001. On 4 February 2012 the company had decided to withdraw its sponsorship to all the form of cricket under BCCI, giving the raging disputes between the two parties on variety of issues.

DANISH KANERIA WAS BANNED BY ECB

Pakistani Cricket player Danish Kaneria was banned by England and Wales Cricket Board on 21

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June 2012. He was given a lifetime ban because he was found guilty for corruption. He is the third Pakistani player who is banned because of match fixing. In addition, in the year 2000 Salim Malik and Ata-ur-rehman were banned for lifetime from Cricket because of match-fixing. Moreover, Salman Butt, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif were banned by the International Cricket Council and jailed by the court of United Kingdom in the year 2010 for fixing specific parts of a Test match. Danish Kaneria is 31 years old. He took 261 wickets in 61 Tests for Pakistan. He had taken 15 wickets in 18 one-day internationals.

KEVIN PIETERSEN ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT

Ace England batsman Kevin Pietersen announced to retire from limited-overs edition of International cricket. He, however, will continue to play test cricket for the country. Pietersen who had made his international debut in 2004 has played a total of 127 one-day internationals and 36 Twenty20 internationals. South Africa-born Pietersen has scored 4184 one-day international runs at an average of 48.14. He is the sixth highest rungetter from England. With 176 runs at 37 he is also the only England player to cross four-digit mark in the T20 format of the game. Pietersen decided to retire as the England Cricket Board had put forth a selection policy under which any player deciding to retire from either of the one-day formats, will be considered retire from both formats.

ANDREW STRAUSS RETIRED

England's test team captain Andrew Strauss announced his retirement from international cricket on 29 August 2012. Under Strauss' captaincy the England team witnessed back-to-back Ashes wins over Aus-

tralia and reached to the top of the test rankings. He was appointed the skipper of English team in 2009 replacing Kevin Pietersen. A left-hand batsman, Strauss made his first class debut in year 1998 and one-day international debut in 2003 against Sri Lanka. Strauss made his test debut against New Zealand at Lord's in 2004, where he scored 112 and 83 runs in two innings and received Man of the Match award. In a nine-year long international career, Strauss played 100 tests and 127 one-day internationals. Strauss has to his credit 7037 and 4205 runs in test and ODIs respectively.

DLF ENDED ITS ASSOCIATION WITH IPL

India's largest real estate company DLF decided to end its five-year long association with Indian Premiere League as its title sponsor. The last date of renewal of contract was 28 July 2012, and the company did not file application for the renewal of its contract. The company spent 250 crore rupees in its five-year association with IPL. DLF has been actively promoting different sports in the country. The company organizes DLF Masters Golf Tournament in Gurgaon every year. It is also one of the sponsors of the Davis Cup tennis tournament 2012, which will be held in Chandigarh. Besides, DLF has associated itself with various other sports over the years. It had supported Haryana Open Badminton Championship, Delhi Football League and various other sports events.

ENGLAND WON NATWEST CRICKET SERIES

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England beat Australia in the fifth and final one-day international cricket played at Old Trafford on 11 July 2012 to complete a 4-0 victory in the NatWest cricket series played in England. The English team was led by Alistair Cook while the Aussie team was led by Michael Clarke. England all-rounder Ravi Bopara starred in England's final victory and was given the Man of the Match award. He claimed two wickets and made 52 not out off 56 balls. Ian Bells of England was given the Man of the Series Award. The victory marked the third series white wash for Australia over the last 40 years. The Australian team is still the world no.1 ODI team. Earlier the team had suffered clean sweeps against New Zealand (0-3) in 2006-07 and against England (0-3) in 1997.

FORMER BCCI PRESIDENT PURUSHOTTAM M RUNGTA PASSED AWAY

Former President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Purushottam M Rungta died on 12 July 2012 after long sickness. He was 84 years old. He was commonly known as *Bhaiji* to cricketers and administrations. He was President of BCCI for three years from 1972 to 1975 and Vice-President of BCCI from 1963 to 1972. He was also BCCI treasurer for six months in the year 1992 after the resignation of Madhav Matri from BCCI treasurer when he lost to Manohar Joshi in Bombay Cricket Association election. After that former BCCI President Madhavrao Scindia named P.M.Rungta as the treasurer of the BCCI. He also managed the

affairs of Rajasthan Cricket Association for many years.

ENGLAND BEAT AUSTRALIA 4-0

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WEST INDIES BEAT NEW ZEALAND 4-1

West Indies defeated New Zealand 4-1 in the five match one day series. The fifth one-dayer between West Indies and New Zealand had plenty of similarities to Saturday's fourth ODI at Warner Park: West Indies chose to bat, the top order stumbled, one of their Twenty20 stars made the slowest ODI half-century of his career to anchor the innings, and then some pyrotechnics from Andre Russell took the home side towards 250. New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor smashed a fine century but it was not enough

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to prevent the West Indies wrapping up the one-day series with a 24-run win in fourth match. Taylor, playing in his first match of the series after injuring his shoulder in an earlier Twenty20 international between the two sides in Florida last month, made 110 off 115 balls. It was an innings which included six 4s and five 6s for his sixth one-day century.

SRI LANKA WINS SERIES WITH PAKISTAN

Sri Lanka won its first Test series in three years after the final Test against Pakistan ended in a thrilling draw in Pallekele on Thursday. The host made a brave bid to chase down a target of 270, reaching 132 for two by tea on the fifth day, before it was pegged back by a three-wicket burst from off-spinner Saeed Ajmal. Dinesh Chandimal scored 65 and the prolific Kumar Sangakkara returned unbeaten on 74 as Sri Lanka made 195 for four before the game was called off with nine overs remaining at the Pallekele International Stadium. The rain-hit second Test in Colombo was drawn, while the entire second day's play in Pallekele had been washed out. Earlier, Asad Shafiq remained unbeaten on 100 as Pakistan declared its second innings at 380 for eight half-an-hour before lunch to attempt a series-levelling win.

BRETT LEE CALLS IT A DAY

Australian pace bowler Brett Lee on Friday announced his retirement from international cricket after a 13-year career, saying his body and mind were no longer up to

the stresses of touring. The 35-year-old said a calf muscle strain that forced him home from Australia's recent one-day tour to Britain was the final straw after a string of setbacks caused by injuries. "I woke up this morning and just felt like I was ready," Lee said. His original plan had been to play at September's World Twenty20 tournament in Sri Lanka as his international swansong, he added. "I think, in a team, you have to have 100 per cent commitment — mentally and physically," he told a press conference at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI APPOINTED BRAND AMBASSADOR

Indian Cricket Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was appointed as a brand ambassador of Nepal Cricket Association, Nepal on 17 June 2012. The announcement was made by Posta Bahadur Bogati, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal. Dhoni will promote and develop cricket in Nepal. Dhoni also advised Nepal cricket officials to get permission from International Cricket Council to construct a stadium. The stadium would likely to promote cricket in the country. Mahendra Singh Dhoni was born on 7 July 1981 in Ranchi, Bihar. At present, he is the captain of the Indian ODI, Twenty20 team and Indian Test team. India won the 2011 Cricket World Cup under his captaincy.

BROADCASTING RIGHTS OF INDIAN CRICKET TO STAR TV IN A 3851 CRORE RUPEES BID

Star TV on 2 April 2012 won the rights to broadcast Indian cricket for next six years

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in a bid to the tune of 3851 crore rupees. Rupert Murdoch owned Star TV won the bid defeating Sony which had offered 150 crore rupees less than the winning bid. The rights include TV, Internet and Mobile broadcasting. The agreement will remain effective for a period of six years starting from July 2012 to March 2018. The agreement gives Star TV rights to cover all home international matches and domestic tournaments involving Indian Cricket team. The right will not be applicable for the Indian Premier League (IPL). Star TV will pay around 40 crore rupees for each international match, which is 8 crore more than what was being paid by previous broadcaster Nimbus. The bid for the broadcasting rights was necessitated as the BCCI had abruptly terminated its broadcasting agreement with Nimbus in December 2011, three years before it was due to expire, over the issues related to payment.

SHOOTING/ARCHERY

25 METRE RAPID FIRE PISTOL EVENT

In a nerve-racking battle for Olympic medal in the individual 25 metre rapid fire pistol event, Indian shooter Vijay Kumar clinched the silver on 3 August 2012. Kumar hit the target 30 times out of 40 attempts in the series comprising eight rounds of five shots each. Leuris Pupo of Cuba, who clinched the gold clinched scored 34 out of 40. Chinese marksman Ding Feng bagged the bronze.

Born on 19 August 1985 in Hamirpur

district of Himachal Pradesh is presently a Subedar in the Indian Army's 16th Dogra Regiment. He booked his place at the London Olympics when he won a silver medal at the shooting World Cup in Fort Benning, US in 2011. The persevering shooter has more than 20 international medals and 75 national medals to his credit. He had won 3 gold medals and one silver medal in the 2010 Commonwealth Games held in Delhi. 2006 Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne saw him winning two gold medals in two separate shooting events. In one of the major achievements in 2009 ISSF World Cup held in Beijing he bagged Silver missing the gold by mere 0.1 point. Acknowledging his excellent track record and medal winning performances, the India government awarded him with the Arjuna Award in year 2007.

MEN'S 10 METER AIR RIFLE EVENT AT LONDON OLYMPICS

Ace Indian Shooter won India its first medal in the London Olympics 2012 after he clinched the bronze medal in the men's 10 meter air rifle event on 30 July 2012. While Abhinav Bindra, who had won a gold medal in the Beijing Olympics 2008, failed to qualify for finals and finished sixteenth. Romania's shooter Alin George Moldoveanu claimed the gold medal with a total score of 702.1 while Italy's Niccolo Campriani clinched the silver with a score of 701.5. Narang came third with a total score of 701.1. It was third time when Gagan Narang was participating in Olympics. In previous Ath-

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ens and Beijing Olympic games he could not turn his performance into medal. This was India's third medal in shooting events in the history of Olympics. Earlier Rajyawardhan Singh Rathore and Abhinav Bondra had won India silver and Gold medal respectively in 2004 and 2008 olympic games. Narang's bronze also marked India's tenth individual medal in the history of Olympic games. Gagan Narang, who hails from Amritsar in Punjab was conferred with the Padma Shree Award in 2010. Considering his tremendous contribution to the field of sports, in year 2010, Gagan Narang was chosen for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, the highest sports award in the country.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR SHOTGUN CUP

Ankur Mittal won the bronze medal in double trap in the fourth International junior shotgun Cup in Orimattila, Finland. He scored 177 points. Mittal had scored 45, 41 and 45 in qualification and 46 in the final. Shayan Masood, the other Indian came fourth, one point behind. He had scored 130 in qualification following a series of 43, 45 and 42. The results of Men's double trap: 1. Artem Nekrasov (Rus) 190 (142); 2. Kiril Fokeev (Rus) 183 (139); 3. Ankur Mittal 177 (131); 4. Shayan Masood 176 (130).

INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Tejaswini Mule won Silver medal at International Junior Shooting Championship in Suhl, Germany on 17 June 2012. She won the silver medal in the 50 metre rifle prone

women's event. She shot around 592 and was occupied in a three-way tie with Jaqueline Orth of Germany and Jennifer Messaggio of Italy. Tejaswini was closer to 10 shots and won silver medal. The gold medal was won by Jolyn Beer of Germany and Orth won bronze medal.

CHANGWON TO HOST SHOOTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2018

The shooting World Championship of 2018 was awarded to Korean city of Changwon on 17 April 2012. The decision regarding the venue of the championship was made at the General Assembly meeting of International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) in London. The Korean government, as per the reports, has earmarked 30 million dollar to enhance the amenities in the shooting complex and organize the world championship with six shotgun ranges, 100 targets each in 10 metres and 50 metres apart from 14 lay-outs in the 25-metre range. The last World Championship was held in Munich, Germany, in 2010 and the next championship will be held in Granada, Spain, in 2014.

55TH NATIONAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR SHOTGUN

Haryana's Ajay Mittal won the gold medal at the 55th National Shooting Championships for shotgun by defeating stalwarts like Sodhi and Athens Olympics silver medallist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore in the final. Delhi's Sangram Dahiya finished second, followed by Rathore and Sodhi. Ajay Mittal's

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younger brother, Ankur Mittal finished fifth and another Delhi lad, Shayan Masood, sixth. Ankur Mittal also won the juniors' competition, with Masood second and Andhra Pradesh's Asher Noria third.

Ajay Mittals' father, Ashok, who combined with his sons to win the bronze medal in the team competition for Haryana too, behind winners Delhi and runners-up Punjab. In the non-Olympic women's double trap competition, Bihar's Shreyasi Singh won the gold with a score of 92 out of 120, breaking her own national record of 90. Army shooters Seema and Varsha Tomar won the silver and bronze medals respectively. Shreyasi also pocketed the juniors' gold ahead of Madhya Pradesh's Varsha Varman and Uttar Pradesh's Malika Wig.

CHESS

FIDE WORLD CHESS TITLE

Ace Indian chess player Vishwanathan Anand claimed the FIDE (Federation Internationale des Echec) World Chess Title for the record fifth time. The defending champion Anand beat Israeli opponent Boris Gelfand in a rapid-chess tie-breaker. Anand received 1.5 million dollar as the winning amount, while rival Gelfand bagged 1 million dollar. The world title is Anand's fourth in a row as he had also claimed the title in 2007, 2008, and 2010. The 42-year-old had claimed his maiden world title in 2000 after beating Latvian Alexei Shirov in Tehran. He is also the first Asian to win the FIDE world

chess championship.

Born on 11 December 1969 in Madras, Anand's breakthrough success in professional chess came in 1983 when he won the Indian Under-16 and Under-19 championships successively and went on to win a place in the country's adult championships. In 1985, at the age of 16, Anand was crowned as an International Master, the youngest Asian player to hold this title. In 1986 he won the Indian adult championship, and in 1987, at his fourth attempt, he won the Under-20 World Championship. Anand had won his first world title in 2000 and reining over the championship since 2007.

KABADDI

FIRST WORLD CUP KABADDI TITLE

Indian national women Kabaddi team clinched maiden Women World Cup Kabaddi championship title on 4 March 2012. In a thrilling match held in Patna, capital of Bihar, Indian women team defeated Iran 25-19. Japan secured third rank while Thailand came fourth in the championship. Earlier in the day, India defeated Japan 60-21 to enter the final while Iran beaten Thailand 46-26 to make it to the final. The global sports event witnessed the participation of 16 countries. The four day event received a great following in India.

CYCLING

99TH EDITION OF TOUR DE FRANCE BICYCLE RACE

Bradley Wiggins of Britain became the first cyclist of the country, to win the coveted Tour de France Cycling race on 22 July 2012. Team Sky rider Wiggins is the first

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cyclist to have won both the Tour and an Olympic track cycling gold. His Sky teammate and fellow Briton, Froom Christopher came second. Their teammate and fellow country man Mark Cavendish was declared the day's winner as he won the final stage of the race.

Wiggins, 32, was given the yellow jersey at the end of the event. The rider with the lowest aggregate time at the end of each day is given the yellow jersey. One of the most successful Olympian of Britain, Wiggins won a bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and three medals (1 Gold + 1 Silver + 1 Bronze) at the 2004 Athens Olympics, and two golds at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Wiggins is the first and only person in history to win the Paris-Nice, the Tour de Romandie, Critérium du Dauphiné and Tour de France in one single season.

TOUR DE FRANCE

The Tour de France is an annual bicycle race event held in France and nearby countries. The first The Tour de France was held in 1903. The race which lasts three weeks, covers around 3200 kilometres. Mauris Garin was the winner of the first edition of tour, while Lance Armstrong of USA had won the race for 7 times, the highest individual win.

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