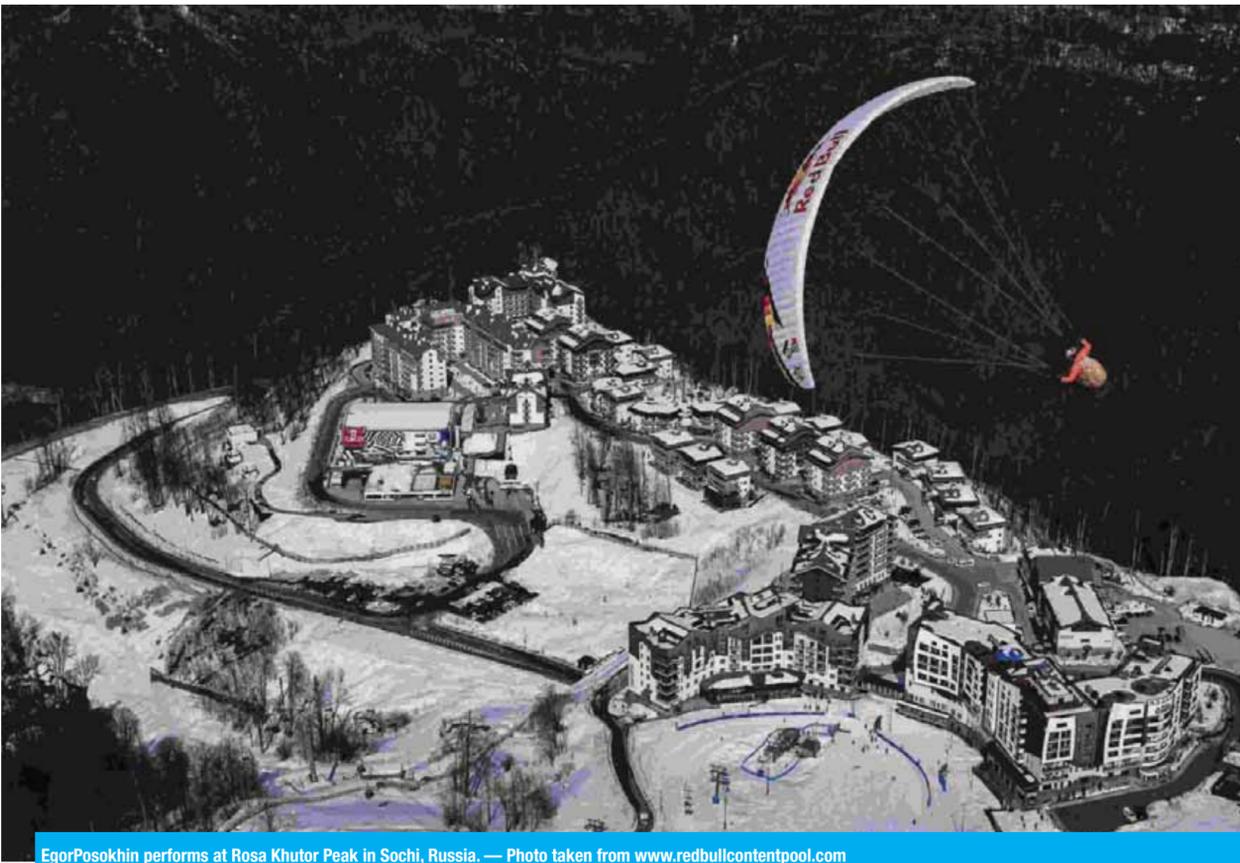


Photo of the Day



EgorPosokhin performs at Rosa Khutor Peak in Sochi, Russia. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Sprint king Bolt tests positive for coronavirus

NEW YORK: Usain Bolt was in quarantine on Monday as Jamaican media reported the sprint legend had tested positive for the coronavirus, just days after he celebrated his 34th birthday with a lavish party.

The retired 100m and 200m world-record holder didn't confirm his test result, but he urged anyone who had been in contact with him to go into quarantine. "I did a test on Saturday to leave (Jamaica) because I have work," Bolt said in a video posted on Twitter. "I am trying to be responsible so I am going to stay in and be safe."

"Also, I am having no symptoms, I will quarantine myself and wait on the confirmation to see what is the protocol and to see how I go about quarantining myself from the Ministry of Health. "Until then, I will call my friends and tell them once they came in contact with me to be safe, quarantine and take it easy," said Bolt.

According to the Jamaica Observer, health and wellness minister Christopher Tufton confirmed late on Monday that the eight-time Olympic champion had tested positive.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness also said police are investigating the circumstances surrounding Bolt's birthday party. "There are reports of an activity related to Usain Bolt," Holness told a virtual news conference.

"These matters are all being thoroughly investigated and the police will give a report on these matters in near future." Bolt last competed internationally at the 2017 World Championships in London. He and partner Kasi Bennet welcomed the birth of a daughter in May. —AFP

Silverwood urges England to finish strong, help get Anderson to 600th Test wickets

England are one up in a three-Test campaign

SOUTHAMPTON: England coach Chris Silverwood urged his side to "finish strong" and help get James Anderson to 600 Test wickets following a frustrating day against Pakistan at Southampton on Monday.

Anderson was left just one shy of becoming only the fourth bowler to reach the landmark figure as a combination of poor catching, bad weather and determined Pakistan batting thwarted him on the fourth day of the third Test.

Anderson, denied an early breakthrough when Jos Buttler dropped a routine chance to reprieve Shan Masood, returned for a third spell late in the day to have opener Abid Ali lbw for 42 after Masood had fallen lbw, playing no shot, to Stuart Broad.

Abid's dismissal took the 38-year-old Anderson to 599 Test wickets. But that was as good as it got for Anderson, who ended a day cut short by bad light and rain with 1-18 from 12 overs.

"It is a massive achievement," said Silverwood of Anderson's looming milestone. "To have two bowlers above 500 Test wickets (Anderson and Broad) and Jimmy closing in on 600 is an amazing feat."

England are 1-0 up in a three-Test campaign and on the verge of a first Test series win against Pakistan in a decade. They beat the West Indies 2-1 in the preceding series that marked international cricket's return from lockdown and are about to conclude a programme of six Tests in seven weeks, all played behind closed doors because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm very proud of how they've handled themselves, being locked up for the best part of 10 weeks

in the 'bubble' — their attitude and effort has been fantastic," said Silverwood. "To finish strong tomorrow and see Jimmy get his 600th would be fantastic. I want to win the game. That's my first and foremost."

Pakistan following on, were 100-2 — still 210 runs behind England's first innings 583-8 declared — at the close. Azhar Ali, the Pakistan captain, was 29 not out following his first-innings century and Babar Azam unbeaten on four.

Abid, who faced 162 balls, said: "England have a world-class bowling attack but the plan was to bat longer and that's what I did. "I should have stayed longer."

"Azhar played a good knock in the first innings and Babar is there so we still have hope of finishing on a high," he added. No paceman has yet reached the landmark figure of 600 Test wickets.

The only bowlers ahead of the 38-year-old Anderson in the all-time list are three retired spinners — Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Australia's Shane Warne (708) and India's Anil Kumble (619).

Anderson started the day in sight of the select group after taking 5-56 — his 29th five-wicket haul in 156 Tests — during Pakistan's first-innings 273.

He might even have reached the landmark late on Sunday had not three catches been dropped off his bowling with the new ball.

Pakistan resumed a huge 310 runs behind a total built on Zak Crawley's 267 and Buttler's 152. Azhar's superb 141 not out kept England at bay after Pakistan collapsed to 75-5 on Sunday. And there was more frustration for England when Masood, on three,



SOUTHAMPTON: England's James Anderson (R) bowls on the fourth day of the third Test cricket match between England and Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, southern England. — AFP

edged Anderson only for the ball to hit Buttler on the thigh as he failed to get his gloves to a chance far less difficult than several catches he held on Sunday. "No one means to drop them," said Silverwood. "Last

night was gloomy but it's still not an excuse. "And Jos's wobbled horrible" as it came to him, Silverwood added. "We're out there every morning. So it's not like they're not working on it (catching)." — AFP

Australia's Harris joins Delhi Capitals as bowling coach

NEW DELHI: Former Australia quick Ryan Harris will replace compatriot James Hopes as Delhi Capitals bowling coach for this year's edition of the Indian Premier League, the franchise said yesterday. Hopes, who held the post during the last two tournaments, had opted out for personal reasons, the team said. "I am delighted to be back in the IPL," said Harris, who worked with Kings XI Punjab last year.

"This is a huge opportunity for me to contribute to the franchise's ambitions of lifting the coveted IPL trophy. "The Delhi Capitals side has an impressive bowling line up, and I can't wait to start working with them all," he added in a Capitals statement.

Harris played 27 tests before a nagging knee injury forced him into retirement in 2015. The 40-year-old has also held coaching roles with Australia's national team and Big Bash League side Brisbane Heat.

Compatriot Ricky Ponting is the head coach at the Capitals, whose fast bowling line-up includes South African duo of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje and veteran India pacer Ishant Sharma. This year's IPL will be played in the United Arab Emirates from Sept. 19 after being moved out of India due to the spread of the novel coronavirus. — Reuters

Don't burst virus bubble, Kohli warns IPL stars

DUBAI: India captain Virat Kohli has warned Indian Premier League players of serious "repercussions" for the tournament if they breach coronavirus safety rules. With all eight teams now in quarantine in the United Arab Emirates ahead of the September 19 start, the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper said: "One mistake from us could literally spoil the whole tournament."

The IPL, originally scheduled to start in March, has been moved from India because of the coronavirus's raging spread across the country, now the third worst hit in the world. Kohli made the warning in a virtual meeting with players which was posted online by the Bangalore team. All teams are in quarantine in Dubai hotels for six days, during which each player will undergo three coronavirus tests.

Players can only start training for the behind-closed-doors tournament after passing the tests, and in the tournament bubble they will be barred from contact with anyone who hasn't undergone the quarantine period.

But concerns remain about players breaking the bio-security conditions before the seven-week tournament wraps up on November 10. Several sportsmen have found it tough to stay within coronavirus bubbles, including cricketers. England bowler Jofra Archer missed the second Test against the West Indies for a breach, and Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez had to go into self-isolation after a golf outing during their tour of England.

The IPL is a massive earner for the Board of Control for Cricket in India, and a contract to be signed by each

player is understood to impose financial penalties for coronavirus breaches. RCB's director of cricket operations Mike Hesson warned players that any wilful breach of the team's safety precautions would be handled "very seriously".

"If somebody breaks this bubble that we have worked incredibly hard to put in place, it actually affects the whole tournament," Hesson said. "It's not just RCB, it is the tournament, it is the TV rights, so there will be strong consequences if players choose to do that." Kohli added that any player caught breaching the safety rules "is letting the whole team down." It might happen at a stage of the tournament where we cannot afford to lose that player. "If we get harmed by it, then the whole system, the whole team, the whole culture loses. I want everyone to understand the repercussions." The pre-IPL quarantine has been a culture shock for many of the top stars now in Dubai. South Africa paceman Chris Morris said he was "a little bit nervous" about linking up with Bangalore in Dubai.

Rajasthan Royals' Jaydev Unadkat said: "We are not allowed to go out of the room. We have been asked to stay inside our rooms. To kill time I have brought FIFA games."

Another unnamed player told the Indian Express newspaper of his surprise on entering the luxury Dubai hotel. "We thought it was rose water as we walked into the lobby, but it turned out to be sanitiser." Chennai Super Kings' Australian batsman Shane Watson said his room had a view of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

"Getting used to the room which has plenty to do, I have got a beautiful view of the Burj Khalifa which is going to be very special," Watson said in a video message. "Going to be doing exercises, walking up and down my room, listening to podcasts, plenty of T20 Stars stuff." The world's richest Twenty20 tournament will be held in Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai over 53 days. It is the third time the IPL has been held outside India, although previously it was moved to avoid clashes with elections. — AFP

Snyman set for long spell on sidelines

DUBLIN: RG Snyman, part of the South Africa side that won last year's Rugby World Cup, is likely to be out for several months after his Irish province Munster announced the second-row forward had torn a knee ligament on his debut for them over the weekend.

The 25-year-old suffered the injury just seven minutes into his first appearance for Munster in their Pro14 27-25 defeat by Leinster on Saturday. "It has been confirmed that the province's newest debutant, RG Snyman, sustained an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) tear in the opening minutes of Saturday night's Pro14 encounter against Leinster," read Munster's statement.

"The lock will meet with the specialist next to discuss surgery and management." The 23-times capped Snyman, a towering presence at 2.05 metres (6ft 9in), featured in every game of South Africa's successful World Cup campaign. Snyman, who signed on a two-year contract from Japanese outfit Honda Heat, is one of two members of the Springbok squad to join Munster with centre Damian de Allende also signing post the quadrennial showpiece. Munster need to beat rival Irish province Connacht this weekend to secure a place in the Pro14 semi-finals. —AFP