

FORMER COLLEGE GRIDIRON STAR SALAAM DIES AT 42

LOS ANGELES: Rashaan Salaam, a former Heisman Trophy winner as America's top college football player, has died at the age of 42, the University of Colorado said Tuesday. The university released a statement saying Salaam's body was found in a park in Boulder, Colorado on Monday night, and that police do not suspect foul play. "We are heartbroken for Rashaan and his family, and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this very difficult time," athletic director Rick George told the university's website. The Chicago Bears, one of the teams Salaam played for in an abortive NFL career, also acknowledged Salaam. "Our thoughts are with his family," the Bears posted on their website. Salaam won the Heisman Trophy in 1994. The running back was drafted by the Bears in 1995 and enjoyed a strong rookie season. But his NFL career unravelled with Salaam admitting that marijuana use played a role. Salaam broke his leg during the 1997 season and entered a rehabilitation program the following year. But he remained out of football until signing as a free agent with the Oakland Raiders in 1999. After a short stay with the Raiders he briefly played for the Cleveland Browns, before trying his luck with the XFL's Memphis Maniax and the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts. — AFP

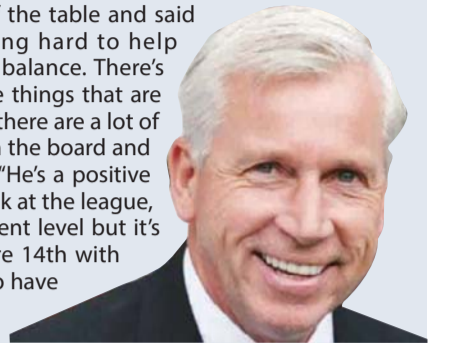


10 TURKISH FANS HURT AFTER UKRAINE MATCH

KIEV: Ten Turkish fans were treated in hospital, two for stab wounds, after clashes broke out surrounding a Champions League qualifier between Besiktas and Dinamo Kiev, police said yesterday. The violence late Tuesday cast a fresh spotlight on concerns for fans' safety in Kiev as the Ukrainian capital prepares to host the 2018 Champions League final. A police statement said two Turkish fans were stabbed while eight suffered less serious injuries during clashes that began on Kiev's main avenue Khreshchatyk before the game and lasted for nine hours. The match ended with Dinamo thrashing their rivals 6-0. The result means that the Turks progress to the Europa League as third-place finishers in Group B while Kiev finish bottom of the group and are out of the competition despite the win. At the match an AFP reporter saw Turkish fans ripping off seats and throwing them at Dinamo supporters while the police tried to keep the two groups apart. A spokeswoman for the Kiev mayor's office said that eight of the Besiktas fans had been released from hospital by Wednesday while two more needed more time to recover. — AFP

PARDEW'S JOB AS MANAGER IS SAFE

LONDON: Crystal Palace chairman Steve Parish has assured under-pressure manager Alan Pardew that his job is secure and said he was a "positive force" at the Premier League club. The south London side's 3-0 home win over Southampton on Saturday helped them stay three points clear of the relegation zone after six league defeats in a row. "Alan has a 41 percent win record at Palace which is pretty astonishing," Parish told Talksport. "It's totally safe (Pardew's job) in that every manager is under pressure. It's a binary industry and you have to win football matches," Parish said the team was no more in crisis than the other clubs struggling near the foot of the table and said everyone at Selhurst Park was working hard to help Pardew succeed. "We have to find the balance. There's plenty right and we just need to fix the things that are wrong," he added. "If we're in crisis then there are a lot of clubs in crisis. We need to get points on the board and everyone is behind Alan in doing that. He's a positive force around the football club. If you look at the league, the top teams have gone on to a different level but it's very flat at the bottom." Palace, who are 14th with 14 points, visit second-bottom Hull, who have 11, on Saturday. — Reuters



PHNOM PENH: Cambodian Minister of Tourism Thong Khon (L) welcomes petanque player, Sok Chan Mean (C) upon his arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport yesterday. Cambodian petanque player, Sok Chan Mean, won a gold medal at the 47th World Championships held from December 1 to 4, 2016 in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Sok Chan Mean defeated his French counterpart, Boursicaud Bruno, 36-29 at the final round. — AFP

ETHICS BOARD EXTENDS THREE IAAF OFFICIALS' SUSPENSION

LONDON: Three senior athletics officials have had their provisional suspension from the sport extended by the IAAF's Ethics Board as it continues its investigation into their alleged involvement in a suspected cover-up of Russian doping cases. Nick Davies, who was chief-of-staff to International Association of Athletics Federations president Seb Coe, was initially suspended along with his wife Jane Boulter-Davies and IAAF medical manager Pierre-Yves Garnier in June. Yesterday the Ethics Board issued a statement saying the suspensions had been extended until Jan. 31 2017 "to allow for the conclusion of the disciplinary investigative process, including any hearing ensuing from the investigations." Davies stood down from his role last December pending the investigation into a "potential breach of the IAAF's code of ethics".

The Ethics Board statement yesterday added: "Each of the three individuals continue to enjoy the presumption of innocence and the extension of the orders for provisional suspension should not be interpreted as any departure from the principle that each individual is to be considered innocent until the conclusion of the disciplinary investigative process." The investigations relate to an email reportedly sent by former IAAF consultant Papa Massata Diack to his father, the then-IAAF president Lamine Diack, in July 2013 that allegedly showed the three suspended IAAF officials were in receipt of, or had knowledge of, a cash payment to withhold details of attempted cover-ups of Russian doping cases.

Other emails leaked earlier this year showed Davies had discussed with Papa Diack developing a media strategy to limit the news impact of a series of positive tests by Russian athletes ahead of the 2013 Moscow world athletics championships.

MEDIA STRATEGY

Davies said that the mail was merely "brainstorming for a media strategy" and that he had



IAAF president Sebastian Coe with Nick Davies (right).

done nothing wrong. Last month he told the Daily Mail: "I was conned and never for a second was I told, or thought, this money was to ensure cover-ups of doping in Russia. That would have been abhorrent to me."

"I thought I could trust Lamine Diack and it was my job to promote and protect the image of the IAAF and the World Championships. I was never mixed up or aware of the criminal activities which are now in the public domain."

French authorities are investigating Lamine Diack and Papa Diack on charges of corruption and money laundering. Papa Diack has denied any involvement in bribery or corruption and says his father Lamine is also innocent.

At the time of the initial suspensions in June, the Ethics Board said that Davies, a former IAAF general secretary and head of communications, received an undisclosed cash payment in 2013 from Papa Massata Diack, "the circumstances and concealment of which call into question whether the payment was intended to have and/or in fact produced any manipulative effect."

Boulter-Davies allegedly received, or knew about, a payment to Davies. Garnier allegedly received an undisclosed cash payment at the direction of Lamine Diack and "retained some part of the sum even when aware of its apparent impropriety". — Reuters

HOSSZU LAUNCHES SHORT COURSE WORLDS WITH BANG

MONTREAL: Katinka Hosszu, seeking to add an exclamation point to her sparkling Olympic year, captured gold and silver Tuesday as the Short Course Swimming World Championships began in Windsor, Canada.

Hungary's "Iron Lady" of swimming, a treble gold medalist at the Rio Games in August, powered to a dominant victory in the 400m individual medley.

Her time of 4min 21.67sec was more than two seconds off her own world record, but it was comfortably in front of runner-up Ella Eastin's 4:27.74.

Easton seized silver after Vietnam's Anh Vien Nguyen appeared to touch second but was disqualified. American Madisyn Cox was third in 4:27.78. The triumph came shortly after Italian veteran Federica Pellegrini denied Hosszu in the 200m freestyle. Pellegrini, 28, was closing at the final turn and churned past Hosszu on the final lap to take the first short course world title of her career in 1:51.73.

Hosszu settled for silver in 1:52.28, with 16-year-old Canadian Taylor Ruck third in a national record of 1:52.50. Hosszu, one of the few Rio stars competing in Windsor, pulled triple duty on Tuesday, also booking her place in the 100m backstroke final.

While Hosszu's win was an extension of a stellar year that saw her win 200m and 400m medley and 100m backstroke gold in Rio, South Korean Park Tae-Hwan's 400m freestyle triumph was a turnaround in a largely forgettable 2016.

Park, a 2008 Olympic gold medalist who fizzled in Rio after serving a drugs ban, pounced to overtake Russian Aleksandr Krasnykh in the final 100m, winning in 3:34.59sec.

Krasnykh took silver in 3:35.30 while 2014 short course world champion Peter Bernek of Hungary was third in 3:37.65.

Park will be hoping his first short course world crown is a launching point for a new phase of his career as swimmers begin looking toward the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

After serving an 18-month steroid ban, Park battled South Korean team officials for the chance to compete in Rio.

But once there he failed to advance from the heats in the 100m, 200m and 400m free and scratched from the 1500m free. Park showed signs of a resurgence with four titles at the Asian championships in November-but also revealed last month that his training for Rio was hampered by worries over threats by former vice sports minister Kim Chong that his determination to compete in the 2016 Games could see him cut off from access to corporate sponsorship.

LE CLOS WINS 200M FLY

Chad le Clos also shook off Rio disappointment with a victory in the 200m butterfly. The South African was denied an Olympic title repeat in the 200m fly by US great Michael Phelps. But a storming finish saw him repeat as short course world champion in 1:48.76 — the third-fastest performance ever in a 25m pool.

American Tom Shields, swimming in lane eight, led at the 150m mark but finished second in 1:49.50. Japan's Daiya Seto was third in 1:49.97.

China's Rio bronze medalist Wang Shun won the men's 200m medley in 1:51.74, ahead of Germany's Philip Heintz (1:52.07) and Japan's Seto (1:52.89).

Vladimir Morozov's storming third leg powered Russia to a victory over defending champions France in the men's 4x100m freestyle relay. Morozov took the Russians from third to first, and Popkov held on for the victory in 3:05.90 went into the water for the third leg on Russia's 400 free relay in third place, but he blasted a 45.42 split, by far the fastest in the field, and Aleksandr Popkov held on to give the Russians the gold. Nikita Lobintsev, Mikhail Vekovishchev, Morozov and Popkov combined to post a time of 3:05.90, with France second in 3:07.35. The United States and Australia shared bronze in 3:07.76.

The United States' quartet of Amanda Weir, Kelsi Worrell, Madison Kennedy and Mallory Comerford won the women's 4x100m free in 3:28.82 ahead of an Italian squad anchored by Pellegrini (3:30.28) and the Netherlands (3:31.10). — AFP



DUBLIN: British and Irish Lions coach Warren Gatland, left, with members of his coaching staff, Rob Howley, second left, Andy Farrell, second right, and Steve Borthwick pose for the media following a press conference to announce the 2017 British and Irish Lions coaching staff for next year's tour of New Zealand at Carlton House, Dublin yesterday. — AP

GATLAND NAMES 'CORE' LIONS COACHING TEAM

LONDON: Andy Farrell, Steve Borthwick and Rob Howley will be Warren Gatland's specialist coaches for the daunting British and Irish Lions tour of world champions New Zealand, it was announced yesterday.

All three were widely touted to be named, especially after Ireland head coach Joe Schmidt and future Scotland national handler Gregor Townsend said they wished not to be considered. Gatland, who has been replaced on a temporary basis by Howley as Wales head coach whilst he prepares for the tour, said the trio were his "core coaching team" though he might add one more to the roster.

"I am excited about this coaching team," said Gatland, who guided the Lions to a series win over Australia in 2013. "I said from the outset it was important to have continuity because we need to hit the ground running, given the limited preparation time."

"In Rob and Andy, we have guys who understand the Lions concept, have worked together and know how to coach a winning Lions team."

"It's also important to have some new input. Steve has done a great job in shaping the England pack and played a major role in their recent run of success, so I am looking forward to working with him," added the 53-year-old New Zealander, whose selection of Howley sees Robin McBryde put in charge of Wales for their tour of the Pacific islands next year.

Ireland defence strategist Farrell, 41, filled that role on the Australia tour and has boosted his reputation as since joining the Irish after this year's Six Nations they have beaten all three of the southern hemisphere heavyweights-the first team from the northern hemisphere to achieve that in a calendar year since England in 2003.

'GET ON THE SAME PAGE'

Farrell said the squad and coaching staff would need to be on message as quickly as possible given the size of their task against a team who put together a record 18 successive Test wins before Ireland sensationally beat them in Chicago in November.

"The challenge for us will be to get on the same page as quickly as possible, appreciate fully the danger they pose and find solutions to their attacking threats," said Farrell, whose son, England kicker Owen, is likely to be on the Tour as well. Howley, 46, has been a trusted lieutenant of Gatland's since being hired as Wales's attack coach when the New Zealander took over the national coach role in 2008.

Former England captain Borthwick's stock rose on the back of Japan's impressive World Cup campaign last year when he was the forwards coach-which included a victory over two-time world champions South Africa.

The 37-year-old former lock moved to the England set-up when former 'Brave Blossoms' boss Eddie Jones took over the reins after the departure of Stuart Lancaster-under whom Farrell was defence coach-following a first round World Cup exit.

Jones, with Borthwick in tow, has since seen the revitalised England team win 14 Tests in a row. — AFP



WINDSOR: Katinka Hosszu of Hungary reacts to her victory in the 400m Individual Medley final on day one of the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) at the WFCU Centre on Tuesday in Windsor Ontario, Canada. — AFP