

De Kock makes ton as SA beat England

Proteas ease to 7-wkt win vs Poms

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Feb 4, (AP): Quinton de Kock marked his first game as South Africa's one-day captain with a century and a seven-wicket win over world champion England on Tuesday.

Temba Bavuma was out for 98 after a 173-run partnership with de Kock but despite missing out on a hundred he also made a statement after he was contentiously dropped from South Africa's test team in the recent series against England.

England won that test series 3-1 but didn't have the same success in its first ODI since the dramatic win over New Zealand in a Super Over in the Cricket World Cup final last July.

South Africa put England in to bat at Newlands in Cape Town and had the visitors in real strife at 131-6. England eventually posted 258-8 in its 50 overs. South Africa was 259-3 with two overs and two balls to spare.

Joe Denly, one of just four players remaining from last month's test series triumph, made 87 to lift England out of trouble. He was helped by Chris Woakes, another man who played that test series, who made 40 off 42 balls. The pair shared a 92-run stand for the seventh wicket.

South Africa's chase was comfortable, though, after de Kock and Bavuma combined to take the Proteas from 25-1 to 198-2 when de Kock was out bowled by Joe Root for 107. De Kock hit 11 fours and a six, and opened the batting and kept wicket as well as leading the team for the first time after his appointment to succeed Faf du Plessis.

Bavuma's dismissal two short of a century and with his team 25 runs from victory was the only real disappointment for South Africa. He was trapped lbw by Chris Jordan and

tried a desperate review. It didn't help him but Bavuma's innings was applauded by the crowd as if it was a century.

The remaining games in the three-match series are in Durban and Johannesburg.

Also:

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan: A three-member security delegation from Bangladesh visited Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, a day before the national cricket team arrives for a Test against Pakistan.

The delegation, led by retired Major Hussain Imam, met with security officials from the Pakistan government and the Pakistan Cricket Board before Bangladesh's first test

CRICKET

in the country since 2003.

As Imam walked around the stadium, he was seen shaking hands with Pakistan players Mohammad Abbas, Shaheen Afridi and Asad Shafiq as they practiced.

Bangladesh arrives on Wednesday for the first Test starting on Friday. Bangladesh will return in early April for a one-off one-day international and the second test at Karachi.

Bangladesh completed the first phase of the tour last month in Lahore where it lost the Twenty20 series 2-0. The third match was washed out.

Bangladesh didn't want to stay for a longer period in Pakistan and agreed to tour only in three phases.

Leading Bangladesh player Mushfiqur Rahim opted out of the tour due to security concerns.

In December, Sri Lanka toured Pakistan for 16 days and played two tests at Rawalpindi and Karachi without any untoward incident. It was the first Test series in Pakistan in a decade after a terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team bus at Lahore left eight people killed and injured several players.



England's fast bowler Chris Woakes bowls during the first ODI match between South Africa and England at the Newland's Cricket Stadium in Cape Town, South Africa on Feb 4. (AP)



South African batsman Themba Bavuma plays a ball at the wicket during the first ODI match between England and South Africa at Newland's Cricket Stadium in Cape Town, South Africa on Feb 4. (AP)

Sumo coming – well almost – to Tokyo Olympics

TOKYO, Feb 4, (AP): Sumo is coming – well, almost coming – to the Tokyo Olympics.

Knowing it may have the world's attention, the Japan Sumo Association and local Olympic organizers are planning a sumo tournament on Aug 12-13, just days after the Olympics end.

The event was announced on

OLYMPICS

Tuesday and is designed to bring more attention to the Japanese sport. It will be part of a local cultural festival and will take place at the Ryogoku Kokugikan arena, sumo's spiritual home in east Tokyo.

Event organizers say the tournament will give visitors from overseas an opportunity to watch the sport. The venue is the same one in Tokyo attended by US President Donald Trump last year.

The roots of sumo can be traced back to the Shinto ritual for a good harvest in the 8th century. It later was



In this Jan 9, 2018 file photo, Sumo grand champion Hakuho of Mongolia performs his ring entry form at the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo. (AP)

used as martial arts training for samurais before becoming entertainment for ordinary people during the Edo period, 1603 to 1868.

The Edo period brought the intro-

duction of stylized rules including the art of entering the ring, the use of loin cloths, topknots and kimonos, as well as fighting regulations.

Sumo rituals are some of the most

traditional in Japan, and the sport is highly cloistered and mostly closed to outsiders.

The yokozuna – the grand champion rank of rikishi, or wrestler – has a special place in the customs.

Unlike other athletes, rikishi are considered living performers of a cultural tradition and are expected to be role models. This is especially true of the yokozuna.

Only men can become professional rikishi. Under sumo's Shinto tradition, women are considered unclean and are not allowed to enter the elevated dirt ring, or dohyo.

In 2018, a sumo referee blocked women who went up to the dohyo to provide first aid for a mayor who collapsed in the ring while making a speech at a sumo event in Kyoto. It triggered criticism that sumo officials were prioritizing their gender-biased tradition over someone's life.

Based on Shinto belief, the dohyo is considered sacred. Before every tournament, Shinto priests perform rituals to pacify the gods by pouring rice, sake and other offerings into a little hole in the center of the ring.

KCC concludes KBC Trophy finals in grand style

KUWAIT CITY, Feb 4: On the weekend of 25th January 2020, Kuwait Cricket Club held the grand finals upon the completion of all the league matches of the KBC T20 Trophy 2019-20. The KBC Trophy, sponsored by the Kuwait Banks Club is the first tournament of the 2019-20 season for the Bank's league.

The plate finals were played between KFH and Boubyan, whereas CBK and AUB were competing for the Cup finals.

The grand finals, along with the presentation ceremony were held at the Sulaibiya cricket ground in a grand style with supporters from all the participating teams making the environment very entertaining.

Dignitaries from KBC and all the banks witnessed exciting and entertaining matches in a fun filled environment. Talal Al Nassar, the Head of KBC's sports committee and Abu Ali from KBC graced the occasion with their presence and Masoud AlHassan – CFO, Paul Dawood, GM- Operations and Manjit Singh were among the guests from CBK. Alok Mishra, the



Group photo from the tournament.

Senior GM from AUB was also part of the guests panel.

Kuwait Cricket Club dignitaries led by Sajid Ashraf (Director General), Rishi D Jayan (Director of Seniors Cricket&operations), Naveen Dhananjayan (Director for match officials), Munaf Tisekar (Director Corporate), Robert (Director of Facilities and Logistics) and Qais

Parkar (Manager of Logistics) were all present for the occasion.

The dignitaries from KBC, Banks and KC council members handed over the trophies for the winners, runners-up and top individual performers of the tournament. Gifts were presented to all team members of the Cup winners CBK, Cup runners-up AUB and Plate winners

defeated Boubyan by 3 wickets in a nail biting finish to the match. Boubyan who batted first scored 133 for the loss of 5 wickets. Skipper Faraaz scoring 40 not out was well supported by Shahzam with 34 runs. In reply, KFH chased the target in 19.1 overs.

Saad Khalid the man of the plate finals scored a quick 38 runs off 21 balls to guide KFH to victory.

Paris prosecutors investigate rape claims in figure skating

PARIS, Feb 4, (AP): Paris prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation following accusations from retired figure skater Sarah Abitbol that she was raped by a coach.

Abitbol is a 10-time French champion and won a bronze medal in the pairs' competition at the 2000 world championships. In a book published last week, she accused her former coach, Gilles Beyer, of raping her from 1990 to 1992 when she was a teenager.

The Associated Press does not normally name sexual assault victims, but Abitbol has written and spoken about her personal experience.

In a statement released Tuesday, Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz said the police unit in charge of protecting

minors will also try to identify other possible victims in the skating world. Beyer and two other coaches have been accused of sexual abuse by other former athletes.

"I'm relieved, speaking out at last is bearing fruit," the 44-year-old Abitbol said, speaking to BFM TV channel.

Urging other victims to contact her, Abitbol said she did not file a lawsuit earlier because she did not dare speak

FIGURE SKATING

at the time.

Abitbol's book and a series of stories investigating sexual abuse in sports published by L'Equipe newspaper last week have triggered strong reaction from sports officials.

On Monday, French skating federation president Didier Gailhaguet was asked to resign by the Sports Minister Roxana Maracineanu.



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