DMFA's moment of truth



The brewing dispute between the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), and the

Football Association (DMFA) seems to have taken a decisive turn following the interference of the National Sports Council (NSC), the highest governing body of

In a circular issued by the NSC on Monday, the authorities made it clear that the DMFA as an affiliated body of the BFF should comply with their superior authorities' advice or otherwise will have to face an annulment of the existing committee.

The controversy arised when the BFF, the governing body for local football; reconmended DMFA implement a new formant for the Dhaka league in a bid to stop fixed

th century of the season to

thrust Lancashire to an eight-

wicket victory over Durham in

the country championship on

155 not out from 265 balls.

with 19 fours, as Lancashire

surged past their target of

312 on the fourth and final day

Opener Atherton has now

piled up 672 runs in nine in-

nings in all matches, his three

other centuries being 129 in

Lancashire's four-day friendly

against Yorkshire, 114 in their

Benson and Hedges Cup game

against Warwickshire and 103

against Durham in the Sunday

Atherton, recently re-ap-

pointed to lead England in the

three one-day internationals

and first three Tests against

the touring West Indies, set

Lanachashire on course for

victory by putting on 94 for

the first wicket with Jason

Iceland hold

United States

beat United States 27-16

(halftime 13-11) in their first

round game of the handball

World Champions on Sunday to

lead their group ahead of

Switzerland and South Korea

who also won, reports Reuter.

back to a mere two-goal lead at

halftime but tired in the

Mohamed Mdai's nine goals,

his team lost 22-26 to

Switzerland. The best scorer of

the day was Yoon Kyung-Shin

whose 12 goals helped South

Senegal beat

Morocco 1-0

beat Morocco 1-0 (halftime 1-

O) in the second leg of an

African Olympic soccer qualify-

ing first round soccer match

Senegal and Morocco drew

on Saturday, reports Reuter.

the first leg 0-0 in Rabat.

Scorer: Bassirou Diouf

DAKAR, May 9: Senegal

Korea upset Hungary 29-26.

The US team held Iceland

Despite Tunisian star

REYKJAVIK, May 9: Iceland

Atherton scored a glorious

Monday, reports Reuter.

at Old Trafford.

League.

Gallian (43).

second half.

LONDON, May 9:

England captain

Mike Atherton

underlined his

prolific form by

stroking his four-

Sports Reporter

almost all teams. But the DMFA defied the proposal terming it as too late

It turned grave when some of the club's including Abahani Krira Chakra saw eye to eye

They even termed the BFF's decision as 'unimaginative' in a press statement issued last

Thanks to the timely intervention of the NSC whose decision will certainly give a decisive punch at DMFA, who despite being an affiliated body of the BFF acted themselves as an autonomous body over the

However, the general secretary of the BFF Sheikh Akmol Hossain, who told this correspondent last night, said, What we advised DMFA is not a controversial one, but a long cherished dream of the local

football buffs, who are being cheated by the fixed affairs practised over the years.

Furthermore the concept of a super league and relegation league is quite familiar in the country," added the BFF general secretary.

Akmol, who seemed to be philosophical, also added that the implementation of the BFF's decision will not only bring laurels for DMFA but will also add a new chapter in the country's football history.

Although the dispute is likely to be resolved in near future, but what will haunt the local football buffs is the mysterious role of M Azizul Haque. who holds the highest office of both the organisations at the same time.

The seasoned bureaucrat implemented a decision as the acting president of BFF and then turned it down in DMFA where he is the president

Bangladesh boys to play in India's U-16 cricket

Sports Reporter

A 16-member Bangladesh cricket team will play in the All-India U-16 cricket tournament, scheduled to begin in Calcutta from May 14.

The Bangladesh selection which included 14 players and two officials, are expected to leave for Calcutta on May 13 and will play their first match on May 15.

Although their opponents are yet to be known, the visitors will play their next three matches in the invitational tournament on May 17, 18 and 20 respectively.

TEAM

Zahed Solaiman (captain) Morshed Alam (vice-captain) Shaker Chowdury, Ehsanul Hug, Ridwan Hassan, Narayan Chandra, Reshadur Rahman Sohel Hossain, Rubayiet Jamil Humayun Farid, Ibrahim Kamal, Ferdows Alim, Artful Sajal, Mehtar Billa. Mahmudul Hug Mani (manager) and Saved Altai Hossain (coach).

Samaraweera at Lankan U-24's helm

COLOMBO, May 9: Test batsman Dulip Samaraweera has been named captain of a Sri Lanka under-24 side that will play South African counterparts when they tour the island in August, cricket officials said today, reports AFP.

Besides Samaraweera, the other Test players in the pool are fast bowlers Dulip Liyanage and Ravindra Pushpakumara:

The series includes three youth Tests and two one-day-

Wimbledon trio will be there

LONDON. May 9: Former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker. Wimbledon finalist Goran Ivanisevic and Wimbledon semifinalist Todd Martin are among the entries for the traditional pre-Wimbledon Europe v Rest of the World Challenge tennis match at Rochampton from June 22-24. reports AFP.

The event, named the club Med Cup is into its fifth year and is expected to draw several other top names closer to the match dates.

Medvedev finds his feet

HAMBURG, May 9: Defending German open champion Andret Medvedev, who has been through a frustrating time on the clay courts in recent weeks. finally found some satisfaction in a cold and windy Hamburg on Monday,

who lost his opening matches in recent tournaments in Monte Carlo and Munich. started the defence of his title with a straightforward 6-2, 6-3 first-round victory over Argentina's Marcelo Charpentier.

Despite a knee operation Medvedev enjoyed a superb season on elay last year, winning the Monte Carlo tourna-

ment as well as the Hamburg title on his way to a quarterfinal place at the French Open. But the world number 20's build-up to the Roland Garros Grand Slam event later this month has been largely disap-

his new coach Boris Breskvar. "He put me back to reality. He made me realise that tennis was not as easy as I thought." Medvedev said. "After the operation last year was spoiled after winning two

in the last week. I am really

starting to enjoy playing tennis Once he had fired a backhand passing shot down the line to break Charpentier's

evening encounter.

Tuesday Medvedev will face American Malivai Washington who beat Russian Andrei Chesnokov 6-7, 6-2, 6-3 in his first-round clash. The Hamburg event has at-

tracted one of the best fields ever with almost all the possibility that I will win a fifth world's top 10 players coming to the North German port to test their form on clay before

the French Open. American world number one Andre Agassi will open his account against German Marc Goeilner, who earned his place in the second round with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over

Borls Becker is the main attraction on Tuesday. The German former Wimbledon champion takes on Peru's Jaime Yzaga in the second round.

Wright, Gunners going for glory times this season, but his five sen.if's lan Wright will have achie-

ved one of club

tootball's greatest

leats should he

score against Spain's Real

Zaragoza in Wednesday's Euro-

pean Cup Winners' Cup final

a finger in the eye of foot-

balling purists and scandal ad-

dicts and become the first

has something else on his

year's final triumph against

Parma through suspension, has

scored nine times in eight

games - in every home and

away fixture this season from

That is already an unprece-

dented record that even Real

Madrid's Hungarian legend

Ferenc Puskas could not man-

39 European Cup matches for

Madrid, including four in the

famous 1960 Glasgow final

when they beat Eintracht

Bul he never matched

A further goal would com-

"I'd love to have the record

plete a tidy sequence and etch

Wright's name in football folk-

of scoring in every match.

said Wright, "But the most im-

portant thing is that Arsenal

wins. Anything else in sec-

high-profile marksman in 22-

vear-old Juan Esnaider, who

like Wright, is vital for their

tinian has been sent off three

The temperamental Argen-

Zaragoza have their own

Frankfurt 7-3.

Wright's feat.

ondary."

Puskas scored 35 goals in

the first round to the final.

team to retain the title. Wright

Wright, who missed last

here, reports AFP.



goals in their run to the final has made up for his other mis-Real Zaragoza's Nayim pre-

dicted the quality of Wright and Esnaider would stand out. "The only difference between Juan and. Wrighty is their age. They are both world As Arsenal attempt to poke

class and it will be a classic duel between them," said the former Tottenham midfielder. Arsenal as a team could creare another landmark.



IAN WRIGHT

No team has ever retained this cup, though Firentina, Ajax Amsterdam, Anderlecht and Parma have all reached the final the year after winning the

History and form -- Arsenal aré just mid-table in the Premiership — are therefore against the Londoners.

However the Pare des Princes, in effect and away fixture for both teams, could

be Arsenal's trump card. Arsenal won in Auxerre in the

quarter-finals, before earning their final spot with a penalty shoot out victory in Sampdoria. But Zaragoza have proved

poor travellers in this season's competition, losing in Prague, Amsterdam and in London against Chelsea.

However coach Victor Fernandez believes a neutral atmosphere will be to their benefit: "It will be interesting to play the holders in Paris -Arsenal deserve to be there because of their win in Italy but anyone can win the final."

One the team news front. Arsenal must reshuffle their defence. Centreback Steve Bould is suspended and breaks up the back four - Lee Dixon. Nigel Winterburn, and skipper Tony Adams are the others which has served them so well over the years.

Bould was booked for dissent three minutes before time in Sampdoria, Martin Keown may be brought back into defence to replace him, though Houston in more likely to bring in Andy Linighan, and field Keown just in front of the back four.

Neutrals might have brought in John Jensen for Keown, but Houston will probably make no changes in midfield. In any case, the midfield is relatively unimportant in as far as striker Wright and keeper David Seaman has virtually carried Arsenal so far.

Nayim is likely to provide the width on the left for Zaragoza, who usually play without wingers, and use Esnaider as a lone striker.

Arsenal coach Stuart Houston may not relish Arsenal's tag of favourites. He played for fancied Manchestre United in

the 1976 FA Cup final who were beaten by Second Division Southampton.

But Arsenal's record in the competition in superb.

They are unbeaten in open play over 26 consecutive Cup Winners' Cup ties dating back to 1980, when they lost a penalty shoot-out in the final

to Spain's Valencia. Their record off the field is not so good. Though the bung scandal and Paul Merson's cocaine problems have seriously damaged the club's reputation and dignity, a win would at least push their former troubles further into the background

George Graham, who led Arsenal to six trophies, was axed earlier this season for claiming a 425.000-pound (637,000-dollar) bung from transfers of two Scandinavian players.

Though he quietly paid back the sum to Arsenal when the irregularity was discovered. Graham had already pushed the self-destruct button and was sacked on February 21.

But Merson, who undertook as six-week rehabilitation programme for a cocaine habit late last year, is very nearly back to his best.

PROBABLE TEAMS

ARSENAL: David Seaman. Lèe Dixon, Tony Adams. Andy Linighan. Nigel Winterburn, Ray Parlour, Martin Keewn, Stefan Schwarz, Paul Merson, lan Wright, John Hartson.

REAL ZARAGOZA: Janmis Alberto Belsue, Javier Agaudo, Fernando Caceres, Jesus Solana. Gustavo Poyet, Santiago Aragon, Nayim, Miguel Pardeza, Juan Esnaider, Francis Fernandez Higuera.

It's Italian

day in

Blackburn title bound liant second half performance LONDON, May 9:

against a Newcastle side bat-

tling for a place in the UEFA

Cup for the second successive

But his opposite number

Strnicek's quick reflexes

saved Newcastle after five

Pavel Srnicke of the Czech

Republic was much the busier

goalkeeper in the first half.



Blackburn Rovers stood on the brink of the English Premier League championship af-

ter Alan Shearer gave them a 1-0 home win over Newcastle on Monday with his 36th goal of the season, reports Reuter.

Shearer rose above defender Darren Peacock after half an hour to head home from close range a cross from the left by his England teammate Graeme Le Saux after the ball had twice crossed dangerously in front of the

Newcastle goal. But the stricker missed two other chances and Rovers were on their heels in the second half as Newcastle pressed for an equaliser, bringing several line saves from goalkeeper Tim flowers, another of Blackburn's England players.

Blackburn, who last won the league tittle in 1914 and close their campaign at Liverpool on Sunday, are five points ahead of defending champions Manchester United, who have a game in hand.

United need victory at home to Southampton on Wednesday to carry the tittle race to the final hurdle, a trip to relegation threatened West Ham in London on Sunday.

A draw on Wednesday would leave United four points adrift with only three points left to play for, handing Blackburn the tittle before the

Flowers won the man-ofthe-match award for his bril-

ALAN SHEARER

minutes when he beat away a Tini Sherwood free kick which Chris Sutton, close to the keeper, dummfed between

Newcastle, who won an FA Cup third round replay 2-1 at Ewood park in January, served notice of what might come in the second half with a near miss from England veteran Peter Beardsley tow minutes before the interval. His 20meter drive was superbly tipped over by the diving Flowers.

Buyt it need not have been such a fraught 45 minutes for Blackburn's supporters.

Shearer, handed the club supporters association's player of the year. Award before kickoff, missed two good chances to add to Rovers' score and his league tally of 33 goals in 41 games.

He beat Peacock to a long ball from defender Jeff Kenna but with only Srnicek to beat he hooked his shot wide.

Later, Shearer got clear again only for Srnicek to save with his legs.

As play flowed from end to end, Flowers made a quickwitted dive at the near post to touch aside a crisp shot from

He then turned over a long-distance effort by Robert Lee that curled wickedly in flight

winger Ruel Fox.

His last crucial save was when he dived to his left to keep out a shot close in from defender John Beresford after winger Keith Gillespie's cross from the right had put panic

into the Blackburn rearguard. It was Newcastle's fifth successive match without a win.

ROME. May 9: With the top eight seeds given first-round

Backed by an army of noisy fans, Italy's number one Sandra Cecchni fought back from a set down to defeat Elna Reinach of South Africa on the Foro Italico's new-look Centre

Veteran Cecchni, who has never gone beyond the last 16 on Rome's slow-paced clay courts, lost the first set on a tie-break after dropping her service when serving for the

But the Italian, playing her patient groundstroke game, wore Reinach down to win 6-

Unseeded Flora Perfetti

sets victory over Alexia

round exit she suffered last

progressed towards

world number, two Daniel

Petrov of Bulgaria in the last

eight in a repeat of the 1993

Jose Laureano of Puerto Rico

in his bout on Monday and is

now clear favourite to take the

had a disappointing champi-

onships so far with five out of

seven boxers already elimi-

nated but they enjoyed greater

Three out of the six South

Koreans to take the ring

emerged victorious but the

narrowness of the points deci-

sions in their favour raise

doubts about their ability to go

success lies with super-heavy-

weight An Jung-Hyun - the

world ranked number 11 -

who overpowered the Iranian

Mohammad Samadi Kalkhoran

Sweden's super-heavyweight

Attila Levin, who comfortably

disposed of the challenge of

There was also success for

Levin and light heavy

with a series of big punches.

Their best hope of medal

success on Monday.

the whole distance.

The South Koreans have

The Bulgarian disposed of

Munchian would have met

Wednesday's quarter-finals.

final in Finland.

gold medal.

Gazza on the Rangers' rope?



LONDON, May 9: Glasgow Rangers are the favourites to win the race to sign Italian-based

Paul Gascoigne. according to former England star Ray Wilkins, reports AFP. Ferguson

claims innocence GLASGOW, Scotland, May 9: Everton striker Duncan Ferguson pleaded not guilty

ing an opposing player during a Scottish League game 13 months ago, reports AP. Ferguson is accused of head-butting Raith Rovers defender John McStay while playing for Rangers at Ibrox stadium on April 16, 1994.

Tuesday to charges of assault-

The trial, at Glasgow Sherif Court. has been adjourned three times for various legal reasons.

Ferguson was banned for 12 matches by the Scottish Football Association over the inci-· dent, but the ban was suspended until after the trial. In December, Rangers sold Ferguson to English club Everton for four million pounds (6.4 million dollars).

Ferguson, who is recovering from groin injury, is expected to play in the Football Association Cup final against Mancherster United on May 20 at Wembley ...

Wilkins, the Queens Park Rangers manager who played north of the border with Rangers, believes Gascoigne, surplus to requirements at Lazio, will be attracted by the Scottish club's involvement in the European Champions Cup.

His view is not reportedly shared by England manager



PAUL GASCOIGNE

Terry Venables, who is said to have advised the player to choose the English Premier-Rangers manager Walter

Smith, meanwhile, has confirmed that his club have agreed a fee with Lazio for the 27-year-old England star.

ship instead of Scotland.

The price is though to be around 4.5 million but Smith must now wait to meet Gascoigne's adviser, Len Lazarus,

to discuss personal terms. "Rangers have the financial banking to compete for someone in that price range," said

"When it was first mentioned I was interested at two to 2.5 million and I think that would have applied to several Premiership clubs. "Now it seems to be head-

ing towards 5 million and only a few can compete in that bracket with Rangers being one of them. "He wants to play on a big stage and they can offer him the chance to play in the

European Cup next season.

That could be a factor. Paul

Gascoigne would grace Ibrox. I'm sure of that." Newspapers in Scotland are already speculating where Gascoigne would live, should

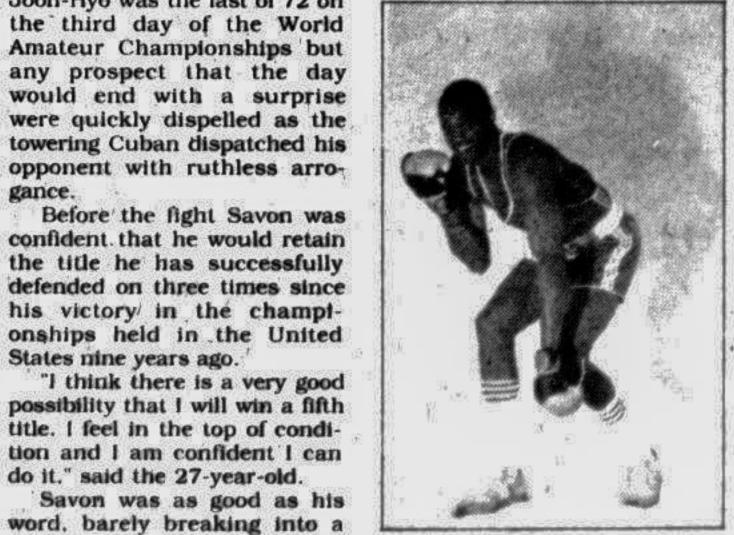
be end up at Ibrox. Secluded mansions, complete with trout river and private lake, are being mentioned as being on offer from Rangers to help persuade the former Newcastle and Tottenham star to move to Scotland.

Glasgow bookmakers would cancel all bets on Rangers to win the title in Scotland for an eighth successive year if Gascoigne signed and a spokesman for one firm, McAllister's, said: "All bets might be off anyway."

"We may consider only taking bets on who finishes second, year and the clubs you would expect to challenge them, like Aberdeen and Celtic, have struggled."

two countries. Jan Quast became the only German not to make it through to the next stage when Cuban light-fly weight Juan Ramirez was awarded a win after a tied

points decision. But Cuba also lost their 100 per cent record when Joel Casamayor, the world number four, lost out by the narrow margin of 17-16 after a furious



FELIX SAVON

encounter with Russian Raimkul Malachbekov in which the two boxer exchanged a bewildering series of punches.

There was also a close call for Cuban light-heavyweight Disosvani Vega — the world ranked number 12 - who squeezed through against Ukrainian Rotislav Saulitschny. the man ranked seven places

tests so far have ended in knock-outs but Cuban superheavyweight Leonardo Fiz also introduced his opponent to the canvas when he floored Vasily Melnikov of Latvia in the third round. Earlier, signs of mounting

tension emerged when tempers flared after defending tight-flyweight champion Nchan Munchian of Armenia was defeated by Andrazey Rzany of Poland here on Monday. The organisers have been

judges awarded the win to the Pole following a tied points decision.

atmosphere of heightened emotion as the championships

7, 6-4, 6-4. also gave home fans something to cheer with a straight-

Dechaume-Ballere of France. Perfetti, ranked only fifth in Italy, now faces fourth seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina,

Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, seeded 14th after reaching the semifinals as a qualifier last year, made light work of beating Sandrine Testud of France 6-4, 6-4.



gance.

Cuban legend Fein spectacular fashion here on Monday when

South Korean opponent, Savon's fight against Yoon Joon-Hye was the last of 72 on the third day of the World Amateur Championships but any prospect that the day would end with a surprise

he took just 93 seconds to end

the challenge of his hapless

Before the fight Savon was confident that he would retain the title he has successfully defended on three times since his victory in the championships held in the United States nine years ago.

title. I feel in the top of condition and I am confident I can do it," said the 27-year-old. Savon was as good as his word, barely breaking into a sweat as he used his considerable reach to floor the South

of another day dominated by Cuba and Germany with both nations providing further evidence that they are likely to monopolise the medals.

But there was no such problem for his teammate Hector Vinent, the light-welter weight gold medalist two years ago in Finland, who inflicted one of the competition's rare knockouts on Moroccan Abdallah Ben

quick to congratulate themselves on a controversy-free start to the tournament but there was a conspicuous lack of goodwill on show after the

Munchian had to be led from his corner to the centre of the ring for the announce

Immediately, the Armenian coach stormed from his seat to confront one of the five judges. shouting abuse and gesticulating wildly before he was eventually hauled away from the

The outburst reflected an

Rome

byes, attention was focused on home-grow success on the opening day of the 800,000 USD Italian Open women's tennis tournament on Monday, reports Reuter.

Court.

set in the ninth game.

four times Italian champion and eager to avoid the second-

Cuba cruise: Savon starts in style



BERLIN, May 9: lix Savon started the defence of his heavyweight title

reports AFP. were quickly dispelled as the towering Cuban dispatched his

Neither team had lost a

Only four per cent of con-

ment of the decision.

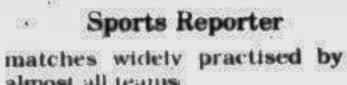
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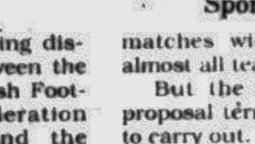
weight Ismael Kome are the only Swedes through to the next round after the elimina tion of their five teammates in the first two days But afterwards Levin, who

England's Danny Williams.

meets Ukrainian Vita Khischko in the next round on Wednesday expressed his confidence of medal success.

Barring legal complications.





Dhaka Metropolis

sports in the country.

Another ton for Atherton A second wicket stand of 179 in 32 overs between

Atherton and England team-

mate John Crawley, who hit 81 from 93 balls, all but finished Champions Warwickshire overcame the last day absence through injury of South African fast bowler Allan Donald and

all-rounder and captain Dermot Reeve to beat Surrey by 91 runs. Paceman Gladstone Small rose to the occasion for the title holders at Edgbaston, tak-

ing five for 71 as surrey were

bowled out for 301. Surrey slumped to 115 for eight at one stage but went down with a flourish when Adam Hollioake lashed an unbeaten 117 from 114 deliveries, smashing 13 fours and three sixes.

with a match haul of 12 for 178, which hurried Essex to victory by 208 runs over Worcestershire at Chelmsford. Worcestershire, 40 for one overnight and needing 406 more to win, slipped to 237 all

out on a pitch of disconcerting

bounce on which only Austra-

lian Tom Moody, who struck a

LONDON, May 9:

Defeated West

Indies captain Ri-

chie Richardson

warned here on

Monday: "We are

Richardson, who became

the first West Indies captain to

lose a Test series for 15 years

went down 2-1 at home.

warned that Michael Ather-

ton's men should not expect

result behind us. Of course it

hurt to lose but we are only

human — we are going to lose

sometimes. We must make

to be complacent or underes-

timate your opponents. But we

are not afraid of England. We

Gatwick Airport on Monday to

Richardson, arriving at

think we can beat them."

"The important thing is not

sure we don't lose too often.

He said: "We have put that

his men to crumble.

Off-spinner Peter Such cap-

tured six for 94, and finished

fine 79 from 105 balls, looked

comfortable. Derbyshire's 100 per cent winning start to the season in all competitions was ended when left-arm spinners Jimmy Hindson and Andy Afford bowled Nottinghamshire to a 114-run success at Trent

Hindson snapped up four for 30 from 25 successive overs and afford took four for 58 as Derbyshire, needing 235 for victory, crumbled from

their overnight 24 for one to 120 all out. Derbyshire launched their championship campaign last week by crushing Sussex by an innings and 279 runs and they have also won their first two Benson and Hedges Cup matches and opening Sunday

Former England off-spinner Eddie Hemmings, at 46 the oldest player on the county circuit, took four for 63 to help Sussex beat Kent by 75 runs at Hove. Hemmings, in his first ap-

pearance of his 29th season,

had a spell of three for one in

16 deliveries as Kent were

start a four-month tour includ-

ing six Tests, scoffed at talk

'that the West Indies were in

terminal-decline, adding:

"People can say what they like.

It's up to us to go on the field

our usual selves against

problems with the guys. We've

just been a bit below par. It

Illingworth's

appointments

cricket manager and coach Ray

Illingworth has appointed two

former Test players, John

Edrich and Peter Lever, as

specialist coaches to help pre-

pare for the six-Test series

against the West Indies, re-

LONDON. May 9: England

happens now and then."

He did admit: "We were not

"It's difficult to put your fin-

dismissed for 230.

Windies not afraid

of England

not afraid of England," reports and do what we have to do."

earlier this month when they ger on but I've not had any

Australia.

ports AFP.

Wilkins.

League game.

reports Reuter. The 20-year-old Ukrainian.

pointing. The 12th seed said he was finally finding confidence under the guidance of

tournaments. I thought I could win a match on my name. That was wrong. "I have been working a lot

serve and take a 4-2 lead in the first set. Medvedev always looked in control of the early-In the second round on

Korean on two occasions before the referee intervened. His victory came at the end Dutchman Paul Haarhuis on Monday.

> fight before Monday but in the first head-to-head between the