

CHAMPIONS TROPHY Kumble might get the nod

PTI, Mumbai

Anil Kumble is widely tipped to make it to the 14-member Indian squad for the ICC Champions Trophy but the selectors are unlikely to cast the net outside the 16 chosen for the ongoing rolling camp when picking the squad for the preceding tri-series in Malaysia.

The squads for both the September 12-24 tri-nation event in Kuala Lumpur and the October-November Champions Trophy in India are to be picked here on Sunday.

Kumble, although out of selectors' favour for one-dayers for more than a year, is staking a strong claim for inclusion in the team for Champions Trophy due to his fine record on home soil.

The veteran leg spinner returned home before the end of the English county season where underwent a stint for Surrey before developing tendonitis in his bowling shoulder.

He is expected to recover fully by the time the Champions Trophy unwinds in four Indian centres, according to the assessment report given by team physio John Gloster.

Bachelor on a merry run

UNB, Dhaka

Jami Hossain and Azam Miah struck twice as Bachelor Sporting Club absolutely outclassed Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha 7-0 to notch their third victory in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Skipper Maruf Reza, Imran Ali and Kazi Rajib netted one each for the winners as they led by four goals in the first-half.

Meanwhile, Farashganj Sporting Club also posted their third win when they beat Uttara Hockey Club 2-0. Rajib and Faisal scored for the winners.

Both sides

FROM PAGE 17

to his side, according to Dhaka captain Arif.

"He has worked wonders with smaller teams in the past and we believe that it will happen once again," said Arif.

"We must also not forget our luck in getting as far as the final round itself. But now that we have come this far, we must look to leave this holy town with the title with us," added an excited Arif.

"There is little to choose between the two sides but it is high time that Dhaka wins the title," said Dhaka coach Babu.

Meanwhile, Narayanganj will be without Nazrul and Abul who are leaving for Doha on national duty to play the AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Qatar. In their place, Mahiuddin and Dulal will take the pitch in an otherwise strong Narayanganj side which boasts a better bench strength than Dhaka.

Dhaka has an injury worry in Wahid Murad who is unlikely to take his place in the starting line-up if he's not fit to play.

Dav join

FROM PAGE 17

arrival from Sri Lanka on Thursday. Fitness training coach Paul Chapman conducted the session.

Batsman Alok Kapali is still having medical problems and has a slim chance to join the camp soon, while his teammate Mohammad Ashraf will return to Dhaka from his club in Liverpool on September 11. He is likely to join soon after.

Meanwhile, the team was in a cheery mood with the good news of Mashrafe Bin Mortuza's wedding that will take place on September 7 in his hometown of Narail.

Roger coasts

FROM PAGE 20

and Elena Dementieva also reached the last 16 in straight sets against compatriots Anastassia Rodionova and Vera Zvonareva.

Agassi meanwhile was carefully weighing up his options after the physically draining win over Baghdatis.

The 36-year-old had needed pain-killing cortisone injections to calm the pain from a bulging disc in his back just to be able to walk on to the court and was huddling with his advisors to decide if he shook take more.

"We're making some adjustments -- some anti-inflammatory options," Agassi said.

"Believe me, I'll exhaust all possibilities short of taking too many risks for the long term."

Agassi's next opponent, the ironically named Benjamin Becker of Germany was like a rabbit caught in the headlamps.

"It's a dream come. I can tell you I will be nervous, I know that. I'm trying to prepare for it because it's something I've never, never experienced," he said.

"The first time I actually saw him in closeup was in LA this year in a LA tournament.

"I walked in the locker-room after a quarter-final and he was sitting there. I was really surprised. But I never talked to him or never anything."



PHOTO: AFP

Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium makes a return against Ai Sugiyama of Japan during their US Open 2nd round match at Flushing Meadows on Friday.



AP, New York

Robby Ginepri played consistently long matches last year in reaching the US Open semifinals.

This year, he's once again struggling to find any consistency at all.

"My whole career, so far, has been kind of like a roller coaster. Up and down," he said. "I need to figure out how to play a complete year at high-level tennis."

The 23-year-old American moved into the third round of the US Open with a confident 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 win Friday over Paul Goldstein. He will next play No. 14 Tommy Haas.

Ginepri made a surprise run at Flushing Meadows last year, going from an unseeded entry into the semis. He became the only man to play four consecutive five-set matches at the tournament in the Open era, beating Haas, Richard Gasquet and Guillermo Coria before losing to Andre Agassi.

But Ginepri has had trouble this year, winning only six matches in his first 15 tournaments through Wimbledon.

"At the beginning of the year, I think I took weeks for granted," he said.

Ginepri is 15-20 this year. He's played better of late, reaching the

semifinals at Indianapolis, the quarterfinals at Los Angeles and the round-of-16 at the Cincinnati Master last month.

FACE IT

Andy Murray can tell more people are recognizing him at the US Open, and the 19-year Briton thinks he knows why.

He's fan friendly, plus his new coach is Brad Gilbert, once a tennis TV announcer and formerly the coach of Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick.

"I think I'm probably more popular this year partly because of Brad," Murray said Friday after a 6-0, 6-1, 6-1 win over Alessio Di Mauro. "Everybody loved Brad's commenting on TV. He's pretty big over here. I'm sure that's probably helped."

Murray pulled off a huge upset last month at the Cincinnati Masters, ending No. 1 Roger Federer's 55-match winning streak in North America.

At the US Open, Murray has held a pen almost as much as a racket.

"I think I'm probably one of the few players that at the end of the match, I try to sign as many autographs as possible," he said. "If you sign their autograph, the tennis ball, it makes them happy."

"If they stick it in your face and you just walk past them or you tell them to get out of the way, you're not going to like someone as much."

LATIN TRIBUTE

There will be a "Celebration of Latino Legends of Tennis" on Sunday at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

A documentary about Pancho Gonzalez, one of the game's greatest players and former brother-in-law of Andre Agassi, will be shown for the first time during the event, held during the US Open.

Other Latino tennis stars from the past and present that will be featured in the exhibition are Guillermo Vilas, Gabriela Sabatini, David Nalbandian from Argentina; Gustavo Kuerten and Maria Bueno from Brazil; Marcelo Rios from Chile, Pancho Segura from Ecuador; and Mary Joe Fernandez, Rosie Casals and Gonzalez, representing the Americans of Latin descent.

The US Tennis Association's Hispanic task force organised the event.

Police ban Chappell demon

AFP, Kolkata

Indian police have asked sculptors not to make religious statues depicting national cricket coach Greg Chappell as a demon for a major Hindu festival this month, officials said Saturday.

In the eastern West Bengal state, which is home to former India captain Sourav Ganguly, Chappell is widely held responsible for the cricketer's continued exclusion from the team after a row between the two.

The festival -- held in the honour of goddess Durga -- marks the victory of good over evil depicted through large clay idols of the Hindu deity and a demon king, which is often modelled after well-known public figures.

'Demons' in previous years have included al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

Police acted after learning that the former Australian captain who in June completed the first year as Indian coach was some sculptors' choice for demon king.

"We should not forget that Chappell is the coach of our national cricket team. He deserves respect," city police deputy commissioner Pradip Chatterjee told AFP.

"In no way we can support the cricket legend being portrayed as the devil," Chatterjee said.

After the police instruction, a sculptor said he would tone down his depiction of Chappell.

Hanif sinks Nasirabad

SPORTS REPORTER

Shadhinota Kirra Sangha thrashed Nasirabad Kirra Sangha 8-0 in the Pioneer League Football tournament at the Basabo Tarun Sangha ground yesterday.

Hanif struck a hatrick while Jamal also scored a brace. Chomril, Robin and Jummon scored once each for the winners as well.

This is Shadhinota's third win in a row in the tournament.

Henry makes

FROM PAGE 20

against that."

Henry has confessed that losing some of his team-mates has hit him hard.

"It is difficult," he conceded. "I have won many trophies with them - and I also lost some. We have had moments of happiness together and others that were more painful."

"More than losing great players, we also lost super guys, true buddies."

"It is not easy but, when you're a footballer, you must learn to accept these situations because everyone has to move on one day or another."

Rijkaard denies

FROM PAGE 20

years.

"At the moment, I believe Ronaldinho does not have any interest in leaving Barcelona, which I celebrate because he is a fundamental piece of this team."

Milan have been alerted to any availability of the South American forward but have admitted signing the world's best player is an "impossible dream".

Roberto Assis, Ronaldinho's brother, has told a Spanish radio station: "In football, everything is still possible."

However, the ex-Gremio genius will be able to focus on his football with the rumours in the background, at least until the transfer window reopens in January.

Jorgensen

FROM PAGE 20

saved by Thomas Sorensen just before the hour mark and the visitors had to wait until defender Carvalho popped up to score his second in the 65th.

Denmark refused to give up though and Jorgensen capped a fine display by firing home between Ricardo's legs before substitute Nicklas Bendtner wrapped up the win in added time.

"Martin Jorgensen and Thomas Kahlenberg were constantly on the move and that gave the Portuguese midfield and defence a lot of problems," said Denmark coach Morten Olsen.

Denmark travel to Iceland for their first Group F match on Wednesday hoping to challenge favourites Spain and Sweden for a place at Euro 2008 being hosted by Austria and Switzerland.

Portugal coach Scolari knows he has work to do before their first qualifier saying: "I was a little disappointed with our defensive play but that's normal with so many new faces."

Portugal, who visit Finland in Group A also on Wednesday, are favourites to reach the finals with Serbia but will be pushed hard by Poland, Belgium and the Finns in a tough section.

'Anelka deal a steal'

AFP, London



Former Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier is tipping Nicolas Anelka to be a hit with new club Bolton.

The notoriously temperamental striker joined Wanderers in a club record eight million pound deal last week that raised eyebrows around the Premiership.

But Houllier believes Bolton have pulled off a major coup by securing the services of the 27-year-old

French internationals and will reap the dividends.

"He's one of the most gifted footballers I have ever seen," said Houllier, who signed Anelka on loan during his reign as Liverpool manager.

"He seems to have blossomed more in England than any other country and I really don't think he'll be a problem."

Anelka publicly criticised Houllier four years ago after he failed to nail down a first-team place, complaining that he had not been given a chance to prove himself.

Bolton are the fourth team Anelka has played for in England following earlier spells at Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester City.

Bolton manager Sam Allardyce is confident Anelka will be worth every penny of his transfer fee as Wanderers aim to become regular challengers for a place in Europe. "I think it is the smallest gamble we have ever taken. Nic's record speaks for itself," Allardyce said.

Egyptian int'l died of heart failure



Football

REUTERS, Cairo

Egyptian international Mohamed Abdelwahab died from heart failure when he collapsed on Thursday during a training session in Cairo, his club Al Ahli said on Friday.

Club doctor Ehab Ali said Abdelwahab's vital signs had stopped almost immediately after he collapsed 35 minutes into a training session with the African champions.

Abdelwahab, who would have turned 23 on October, had undergone regular medical checks, Ali

added, and there was no indication of any problems.

Desperate efforts were made to revive the player at the training pitch and he was rushed to hospital.

He was not involved in a clash with another player.

The Egyptian Football Association said that the gate proceeds from Saturday's African Nations Cup qualifying Group One game against Burundi in Cairo would go to Abdelwahab's family.

Abdelwahab had not played a competitive match since the end of the Egyptian season in May because of a dispute over his registration.

The fullback had been on loan at

Al Ahli for the last two years from Al Dafraa of the United Arab Emirates.

Negotiations over a permanent move back to Cairo had stalled, ruling him out of the start of the new season and Al Ahli's campaign in the group phase of the African Champions League, which started in July.

A dispute between the two clubs was due to be heard by FIFA next month, officials added.

His inactivity had also seen him lose his place in the Egyptian national side.

Toon chairman slams transfer window



Football

INTERNET, undated

Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd has hit out at the transfer window, claiming it is 'ridiculous'.

The Magpies made a surprise swoop for Antoine Sibierski on deadline day, and have been criticised by sections of their support for showing a lack of ambition after snapping up free agent Olivier Bernard.

However, Shepherd hit back at the fans and blasted the transfer window.

He told the Newcastle Chronicle: "There is no-one to blame for us not getting other players in before the transfer deadline."

"It's the window to blame. It is absolutely ridiculous - really a restriction of trade - and I would like to see somebody challenging it."

"How can you stop someone from getting a job? What other business - and football is a business - would allow this?"

"We have been slammed for

trying to do business on transfer deadline day, but it is no good saying you should buy before that because things don't always work out that way in football."

"It's not like buying a pair of shoes off a shelf. It's completely different. It's more like a game of poker. Don't forget, other clubs do not always want to sell their players."

"We do not want Glenn Roeder to buy players willy-nilly. He is trying to tidy things up for us and it cannot happen overnight."

"But he has got rid of a few high wage earners who were not doing it for us and were not fitting in here."

"And what he is looking to do is to buy the right players at the right price, and at the right terms, and players who have the right attitude."

"The transfer deadline has come and gone until January and we have to move on. We have a quality squad of players who are the envy of some of the other Premiership clubs."

"And I can assure our fans we are always on the look out for players to add to this squad."

"We have nothing to reproach

ourselves for.

"We have spent 15 million pounds on Damien Duff and Oba Martins and, if you take Chelsea out of the equation, then only three or four other teams have spent more than us in the Premiership this summer. And that after paying out 28 million pounds for Michael Owen and Albert Luque this time last year."

"In fact, I don't think we have had a bad summer. We have got Damien Duff and Oba Martins, who we believe are real quality signings."

"We also beat off a lot of other Premiership teams to get Giuseppe Rossi in from Manchester United."

"Antoine Sibierski has come in as a squad member, while we have got Olivier Bernard back and Shay Given on a new five-year contract."

"Perhaps our timing was wrong. If we had signed Damien Duff or Oba Martins on transfer deadline day our fans would have been dancing in the street."

Bogdan slam dunks NBA



Basketball

AFP, Saitama

Turkey coach Bogdan Tanjevic will welcome National Basketball Association stars to his nation for the 2010 World Basketball Championship, but he wants the NBA to stop plundering global talent.

Tanjevic went on a rant against the NBA here Saturday following his team's 64-56 loss to France in the consolation game to decide fifth place at this year's world championship.

"The NBA, they do not care about us. The treat us like a colony," Tanjevic said, comparing NBA scouts to vultures looking for fresh meat.

"They don't make nothing for us.

They always send the condors to us, always watching."

Events like the world championship give NBA clubs a chance to see the top young players from around the world and sign them to big deals, leaving scraps for other national leagues as they try to survive.

"It's a chance for the NBA to take from the teams young stars without giving nothing in return," Tanjevic said, noting the competition the sport faces for young talent from such rivals as football.

"It's a shame the way they behave. They have to help us," he said. "We will continue. But give us a chance."

NBA owners worry about having their top players in the World Championship for fear of injuries like those to France's Tony Parker or Spain's Pau Gasol, ones that can

keep them out for part of the NBA season that starts in October.

And it probably did not help Tanjevic's mood that the NBA's two top Turkish players, Hedo Turkoglu of the Orlando Magic and Mehmet Okur of the Utah Jazz, did not join Turkey for the worlds, which they made as a wild-card selection.

"I think it's very important for the NBA players to play for their national teams," Tanjevic said.

"They do nothing for five months, they do weightlifting and like that. NBA players, they lose the time. Sometimes they think they are so talented they can make it back."

Tanjevic cited the example of FIFA's World Cup and the top football leagues of Europe as a shared benefit between a global showcase and club teams.

Akhtar restricts

FROM PAGE 17

Strauss c Akmal b Akhtar	0
Bell c Inzamam b Akhtar	9
Pietersen c Naved b Asif	17
Collingwood lbw b Afridi	35
Dalrymple lbw b Razzaq	13
Clarke b Akhtar	39
Read b Razzaq	30
Gough b Akhtar	1
Lewis run out	2
Broad not out	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-7, nb-1)	13
Total: (All out in 39.1 overs)	166
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-18, 3-18, 4-44, 5-78, 6-107, 7-160, 8-162, 9-163, 10-166	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	8	0	28	4
Asif	8	2	10	2
Naved	7	0	42	0
Razzaq	6.1	0	30	2
Afridi	5	0	27	1
Hafeez	5	0	24	0

PAKISTAN: Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Younis Khan, Mohammad Yousuf, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Abdul Razzaq, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal, Rana Naved, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Asif
Toss: Pakistan