

BFF conducts fitness test

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), for the first time, conducted a fitness test of the national footballers at the Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital yesterday ahead of the three weeklong conditioning camp beginning in Cox's Bazar on Monday.

Earlier, the BFF selected 30-brothers to form the national football team for the upcoming international soccer meets- SAFF Championship, South Asian Games and the AFC Challenge Cup Football.

Out of 30 players, 28 players except Arman Aziz and Zahed Parvez Chowdhury, completed their fitness tests. They will appear for fitness test today.

On completion of the conditioning camp at the tourist resort of Cox's Bazar, the fitness test of the players will be conducted again to measure their improvement and fitness level.

Then the national players will go for a six-week long residential training camp at BKSP.

The team will leave for Cox's Bazar on Saturday.



New Zealand bowler Sian Ruck (C) celebrates with teammates after taking an India wicket during their ICC Women's World Twenty20 first semifinal in Trent Bridge yesterday. PHOTO: INTERNET

WOMEN'S WORLD T20

Watkins takes NZ into final

Cricket

AFP, Nottingham

Skipper Aimee Watkins led New Zealand into the final of the women's World Twenty20 with a rousing 52-run win over India here on Thursday.

Watkins, who won the toss and elected to bat at Trent Bridge, smashed an unbeaten 89 off 58 balls as the White Ferns scored 145-5 and then restricted India to 93-9 at Trent Bridge.

The New Zealand captain's score was higher than the men's best of 88 by West Indian captain Chris Gayle against Australia in their ongoing World Twenty20.

India, hoping to make up for the absence of the men's team from the semi-finals, managed just four runs more than Watkins' own contribution as wickets tumbled at regular intervals.

Amita Sharma top-scored for the Indians with 24 off 27 balls, hitting the only six of the innings, while opener Mithali Raj made 20.

Eight Indians failed to reach double figures as Sian Ruck and Amy Satterthwaite picked up two wickets each.

Watkins plundered 10 boundaries and two sixes even as none of her teammates managed to reach 20.

Watkins and Sophie Devine (14 not out) added 25 runs from the last 12 balls, including a six by Watkins off the final delivery of the innings by Rumeli Dhar.

New Zealand, who had also entered the final of the 50-overs-a-side World Cup in Australia in March where they lost to England, have won all their four matches so far.

They await the winner of Friday's second semi-final between Australia and England at the Oval in Sunday's final at Lord's.

PCB calls

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BCB's media committee chairman and board member, told Cricinfo.

"They seem to have a misconception about the current situation in Bangladesh, which is very safe. We had an academy side from Sri Lanka touring here last month and a team from Maharashtra [India] touring for three weeks. Those tours went along smoothly and they were very happy with the security arrangements."

Yunus said that the BCB was preparing to host more international cricket down the year, including hosting Zimbabwe and a proposed ODI tri-series also involving India and Sri Lanka.

"I hope Pakistan will review their decision after obtaining better information about the situation here," he said.

Ramdin

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down the ground for ones and twos and wait for the bad ball.

"Their bowling line-up is quite tricky with Murali, Mendis and Malinga but we have to try and back ourselves."

Whoever comes out on top at the Oval will face the winners of Thursday's Trent Bridge clash between Pakistan and South Africa in Sunday's Lord's final.

Edwards scare

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The Oval here on Thursday: "Fidel Edwards has an irritation in the nerve root of his lower back. He has not been ruled out of the tournament, he is still with us."

"He won't be bowling today but we are very optimistic he will be available for tomorrow's [Friday's] match."

West Indies captain Chris Gayle said of Edwards: "He has been good for us throughout the tournament. Fidel is the sort of bowler who can win you games and pick up crucial wickets at crucial times even though sometimes he can go for runs."

"He is actually a wicket-taker and can change a game for us. He was missed the last game even though we won. He is a key factor for us."

Edwards has taken six wickets in four matches at this tournament at an average of 21.50.

All-rounder Darren Sammy, who came in for Edwards against England, would appear to be the leading candidate to step into the side if the 27-year-old Barbados quickie ruled out.

Whoever triumphs in Friday's match will face the winners of Thursday's first semifinal between Pakistan and South Africa in Sunday's final at Lord's.

BIT ride on

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School beat Rajdhani High School 3-0 where Habiba struck twice while Pinky netted the other goal for the winners.

Pinky of Vigarunissa Noon Girls School was adjudicated the player of the match.

In the day's last match, Dholaiapur High School edged past Azimpur Girls School by a solitary goal scored by Fahima.

In today's matches Agrani School Azimpur will play Rahmatullah Model High School (3pm), Aga Khan School meets Agargaon Taltola Adarsha School (4pm) and Scholastica face off Sir John Wilson School (5 pm).

KKR sack Buchanan

Cricket

AFP, Kolkata

Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday sacked controversial Australian coach John Buchanan after their poor performance in the recent Indian Premier League (IPL).

The Kolkata team finished last in the eight-team IPL in South Africa last month, losing 10 of their 14 league matches.

"Buchanan has informed Knight Riders that despite his hard work over the past two seasons, he has not achieved everything that he set out to," KKR co-owner Jay Mehta said in a statement.

"We have amicably agreed that Knight Riders will release him from his contract with immediate effect."

The Kolkata team also failed to make it to the semifinals in the inaugural IPL edition in India last year, when

Buchanan was cricket manager.

"I would like to state that John is a great coach. He had a vision for Knight Riders and did not waver from this



JOHN BUCHANAN

vision," said Mehta.

"Unfortunately, it has not brought the results that are so necessary to this franchise."

Buchanan is set for a coaching role with England

ahead of the Ashes series against Australia.

He has been asked to work with England's player development programme, mainly the youth and the 'A' sides and is due to talk to coach Andy Flower in the build-up to the first Ashes Test in Cardiff on July 8.

Buchanan, who had a successful eight-year stint as Australia's national coach, sparked a controversy ahead of this year's IPL when he floated the idea of having multiple captains in Twenty20.

Effigies of him were burnt in Kolkata by fans of former India captain Sourav Ganguly who believed the concept was meant to dilute the powers of their popular 'Prince of Kolkata'.

Buchanan left the Australia job after the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies as elite cricket's most successful coach, with a winning record of 70 per cent after becoming national coach in 1999.

Wind helps Bolt

Athletics

AFP, Ostrava

Triple Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt was helped by a favourable breeze to cover the 100 metre distance here in 9.77 secs, just outside the world record he set in Beijing last year.

The 22-year-old Jamaican was ahead of Briton Craig Pickering and Frenchman Ronald Pognon in the race at the Grand Prix athletics event in Ostrava.

"It was a good race overall. I'm happy with myself. I had a very poor start. Horrible. The gun was fast and surprised me," said Bolt, who raced with favourable wind of 2.1 metres per second.

In the event of a record it

would not have been validated, 2.0 metres a second being the permitted limit.

"The wind is part of life. It's not frustrating. You have to deal with it. Sometimes you have the wind with you, sometimes against."

It was Bolt's first challenge in a top category athletics event this year. In March he ran a wind-affected race in the Caribbean before appearing at high-profile media opportunities, including a 150 metre race in Manchester city centre, and at Toronto.

But the runner is now involved in rigorous preparation period for the World Championships in Berlin in August.

Meanwhile Olympic champion Dayron Robles set the fastest 110 metres hurdles time of the year on his way to

victory in the discipline at the Ostrava meet.

Benefiting from favourable wind conditions, the Cuban threw himself forward at the line to win the race in 13.04, just ahead of the USA's Dexter Faulk and Shamar Sands of the Bahamas.

The 22-year-old Robles set a world record of 12.87 last year on the same track, inside his Olympic gold winning time of 12.93.

The previous best time of 2009 time in the discipline was the 13.09 set by American David Oliver at Doha on May 8.

Elsewhere at the Ostrava event, Bershawn Jackson of the USA won the 400m hurdles in 48.32 secs, ahead of 2004 Olympic champion Felix Sanchez of the Dominican Republic and Poland's Marek Plawgo.

Among the women, Ethiopia's Meselech Melkamu ran the 5,000m in 14min 34.17sec, narrowly beating the Kenyan Linet Masai.

Brazil belittle

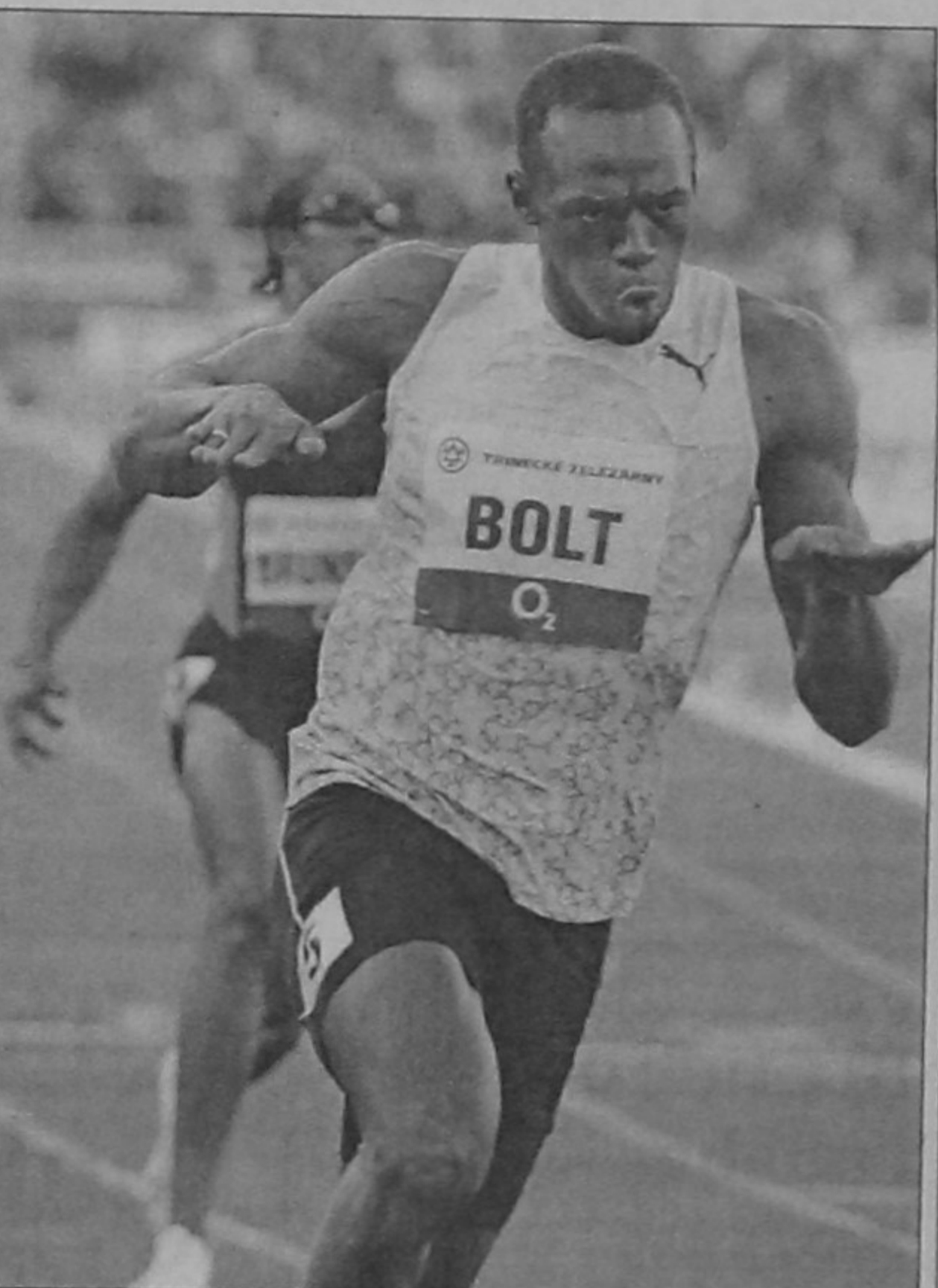
FROM PAGE 17 leaving the CONCACAF Gold Cup winners a man down for the last half hour.

Maicon then got onto the scoresheet after a thrilling four-man move started and ended by the Inter Milan man, who charged in from the right and chipped the ball into the top-left corner via a slight deflection after a couple of subtle touches from Kaka and Ramires had set him free.

Kaka received a standing ovation from the near full Loftus Versfeld stadium when he was replaced by Julio Baptista.

Dunga also took off Luis Fabiano, who appeared annoyed as he had vowed to score a goal in every game here.

The US's best chances came late on with substitute Feilhaber hitting the underside of Julio Cesar's crossbar and a Conor Casey header following suit.



Olympic champion Usain Bolt of Jamaica crosses the finish line on way to winning the 100 metres race at the Grand Prix athletics event in Ostrava on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

Murray reveals vision

AFP, London



Andy Murray admits his attempt to win Wimbledon for the first time will be fuelled by his vision of what it would be like to serve for the title.

Murray, the world number three, is expected to mount a serious challenge for the men's singles title at the All-England Club when the tournament gets underway on Monday.

The Scot won his first grass-court title at Queen's last week and he can't stop thinking about what it would be like to reach match point in the Wimbledon final.

"I've thought about serving for the title - but the closer you get to a grand slam the less you think about it," he told BBC Radio Five Live.

"In the gym is the time I think about those things - to find a reason for putting in the hard work - and when you're going through it on the running track."

"Sometimes you feel sorry for yourself, you are finding reasons for doing the training. When I get tired and out of breath I think, 'I'm doing this so I can last long enough in the fifth set of a grand slam' - focusing on the last point and hoping your opponent messes up."

Murray, seeded third behind Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last year before being thrashed by eventual winner Nadal.

Bolstered by many hours of physical training in the searing heat of Miami after that defeat, Murray is now a far more dominant player. He has already beaten Nadal and Federer this season and admits his confidence is sky-high.

"It is good for confidence any time you win tournaments," he said. "To win your first event on grass is nice - I had never made a final on grass."

"At Queen's I felt more comfortable on grass than I have in the past. I played well there and I feel good."

"It is a tough thing to do because you are only playing one or two tournaments on grass a year and all of the best players normally play."

Most players have to survive at least one gruelling five-set match en route to a Grand Slam success and Murray, who reached the US Open final last year, believes he can last the pace as well as anyone.

"I needed to get even stronger to be able to play back-to-back five-set matches over the whole tournament," he said.

"After Wimbledon last year, I went to train in Miami for three or four weeks and that is pretty tough weather to train in around this time of year."

"That made a difference going into the hard court stretch and I made my first slam final. I have that belief that I can play the whole of the slams now."

"I would love to win Wimbledon one day, there is no question about that, but I try not to think about it too much."

Chasers v defenders

FROM PAGE 17

left-handed opener striking some of the biggest sixes ever seen at the south London venue.

Gayle has yet to hit such heights again at this competition but the knowledge of what he can do is enough to make most opponents pause for thought, although Sri Lanka's unorthodox Lasith Malinga is unlikely to be as easy to 'tee off' against on a bouncy pitch as was Australia fast bowler Brett Lee.

In the likes of Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ramnaresh Sarwan, West Indies have batsmen capable of plugging the gap if Gayle fails, while Dwayne Bravo is a talented all-rounder and the leader in the field of a team capable of taking some spectacular catches.

No wonder Gayle said after his side's five-wicket Super Eights win over England at the Oval, a victory which took them

into the last four: "To be honest with you, a lot of teams fear us."

"We were written off from the start of the tournament and we are actually in the semifinal. If you look at each and every one of our players, we are actually winners."

TEAMS

SRI LANKA (probable): Tillekaratne Dilshan, Sanath Jayasuriya, Chamara Silva, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Jehan Mubarak, Angelo Mathews, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralitharan, Isuru Udana, Ajantha Mendis.

WEST INDIES (probable): Chris Gayle (captain), Andre Fletcher, Lendl Simmons, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Denesh Ramdin, Jerome Taylor, Suliseman Benn, Fidel Edwards.

Umpires: Aleem Dar and Rudi Koertzen.

Azimpur

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team by six wickets at the Azimpur Girls High School ground.

Sent into bat first, Vigarunissa Noon School & College B team scored 54 for 6 in 20 overs with team highest 34 runs from extras.

Chasing an easy target, Vigarunissa Noon School & College A team scored match-winning 55 runs for four wickets in 12 overs.

In the day's other match, Amzad Ali Sarker Girls High School 'A' team beat Par Ganderia Non-Govt. Primary & Junior High School by 22 runs at the Gulshan Youth Club ground.

Batting first after winning the toss, Amzad Ali Sarker Girls High School 'A' team scored 85 for 7 in 20 overs with 56 runs coming from extras.

In reply, Par Ganderia School were all out for 63 in 19.1 overs with 46 runs from extras.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cushions

5 Insecticide

8 Cooking letters

12 Cast-of-thousands

13 Black-bird

14 Medley

15 New Age

16 Seek

18 But

20 Firstborn

21 Baseball legend

23 Longing

24 Showy

28 Appointment

31 Sapporo sash

32 Blunder

34 Ball prop

35 React in horror

37 "Gentle on My Mind" singer

39 Aye

41 Untrustworthy sort

42 Slept soundly?

45 Monkey in a lab, maybe

49 Victoria's Secret

51 "Karenina"

52 "So be it"

53 Scratch

54 Drunkards

55 Titanic

56 Type squares

57 Pairs

6 "CSI"

7 Occasion

8 Fraudulent, as dice

9 Estrange

10 Predetermines the outcome

11 "Cut it out!"

17 Thickness

19 Tropical tree

22 Twine

24 Gear

25 Lawyers' org.

26 Incorrect term

27 Fans

29 Aviv

30 Slithering swimmer

33 Colorful fish

36 Removing rind

38 Item in a KFC bucket

40 "Of course"

42 Wound cover

43 Appellation

44 Capitol cap

46 Winter forecast

47 "Do others..."

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50 Felonious flight

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