

## 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 week long conditioning camp beginning in Cox's Bazar on Monday.

Earlier, the BFF selected 30-booters 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.

Ashraful

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captaincy and we played good cricket in the last twelve months. Nobody raised any questions before the match against Ireland.

"I have done a lot for my country and want to do more," he stated.

"If I am dropped from the team I will comeback with the performance. I am not such a bad player that I can't make my comeback. I can easily play international cricket for another eight to ten years if I am fit," he observed.

Though the players were angry at the comments they still took part in a full practice session under the guidance of Khaled Mahmud.

"They were really angry with the comments in the newspapers and took some decision at the heat of the moment. But later they could realise their position and thought that it would be rather better to talk with the board officials to convey their sentiment," said an insider on condition of anonymity.

Three selectors Rafiqul Alam, Akram Khan and Naimur Rahman were present during the eventful practice day along with team operations manager Shafiqul Haque Hira.

The players changed their stance as they learnt that the board would take stern action if the players breached the code of conduct.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus was however not ready to make any comments on the issue.

Most of the BCB high-ups including president, senior vice-president and cricket operations chairman are now abroad and that's why the players may meet with vice-president Ahmed Sajjadul Alam on Saturday.

Shuktara

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order after being sent off during the match.

In a play-off match at the same venue, Brothers Union Club of Pabna defeated Abahani KC of Barguna 2-0 scored by Riad and Sagar.

In the first semifinal, Feni Soccer Club will face Shaheed Muktijodha Moeen Smriti Sangsod of Jessor on Tuesday, failing to reach a pm at the Jessor Stadium.

The second semifinal will be played tomorrow at the Cox's Bazar Stadium.

India shift

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The Indians appeared lacklustre during the 12-run defeat to South Africa in the last Super Eights match at Trent Bridge on Tuesday, failing to reach a modest target of 131.

India's 16-man squad for the Caribbean tour, which was announced earlier on Wednesday, does not feature prolific batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag, and pace spearhead Zaheer Khan, all of whom have been given time off to recover from injuries.

Tendulkar, 36, the world's leading Test and one-day batsman who declined to play in the World Twenty20, is recovering from a finger injury that he aggravated during the IPL in South Africa.

Left-hander Suresh Raina is also out with a hairline fracture on the thumb, while Sehwag missed the World Twenty20 with a shoulder injury.

India have recalled left-arm seamer Nehra after four years following an impressive showing during the IPL, and included Mumbai's Abhishek Nayar for his first tour.

Chris Gayle's West Indies have reached the semifinal of the World Twenty20 and play Sri Lanka at the Oval in London on Friday for a place in the final.



PHOTO: INTERNET  
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.

## 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 Rumieli 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 final at Lord's.

### 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 quick is 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 Viqarunnissa Noon Girls School was adjudicated the player of the match.

In the day's last match, Dholaipar 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 (5pm).

# 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 under way 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 misses."

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."

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

"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):** Tillakaratne Dilshan, Sanath Jayasuriya, Chamara Silva, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Jehan Mubarak, Angelo Mathews, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralitharan, Isuru Udara, Ajantha Mendis.

**WEST INDIES (probable):** Chris Gayle (captain), Andre Fletcher, Lendl Simmons, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Rammalash Sarwan, Denesh Ramdin, Jerome Taylor, Suleiman Benn, Fidel Edwards, Umpires: Aleem Dar and Rudi Koertzen.

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

Azimpur

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

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

Chasing an easy target, Viqarunnissa 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.

# 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

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

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