

No titles means failure: Jose

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho will consider his first season at the Santiago Bernabeu a failure unless the Spanish giants win the Primera Division title or the Champions League. Madrid have failed to win the Primera Division since 2007 and picked up their last Champions League trophy in 2002, but Mourinho insists the club's trophy drought must end now. "If we don't win the league or the Champions League (this season), it would be a failure," he told



Vintage India batsman VVS Laxman raises his bat after scoring a century on the fifth and final day of the third Test against Sri Lanka at the P Sara Oval in Colombo yesterday. Laxman scored an unbeaten 103 as India won the Test by five wickets and drew the three-match series 1-1.

Klusener next bowling coach?



SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is likely to appoint former South African all-rounder Lance Klusener as the new bowling coach for the national team while Julien Fountain, a professional English cricket coach, as the fielding coach.

Highly placed sources said the board has almost taken the decision about their appointment and the official announcement may come within a very short time.

The board received seven applications for bowling coach where local Sarwar Imran, former West Indies fast bowler Colin Croft, former English paceman Andrew Caddick, Pakistani Mohsin Kamal, English Colin Siller and South African Ibrahim Mohammed were the other candidates.

Australians David Drew and Mathew Buckley and Sri Lankan Dimuthu Dasun were the other candidates for the position of fielding coach.

The BCB has been desperately looking for the support staff for the national team ahead of the 2011 World Cup where Bangladesh is one of the three co-hosts. The new coaches are expected to join the team next month. The two vital posts have been lying vacant after Sri Lankan bowling coach Champaka Ramanayake left the job for sickness while the board didn't extend the tenure of Mohammad Salahuddin as a fielding coach.

The preparations for the World Cup under the guidance of Jamie Siddons are likely to kick off from August 20.

Klusener, nicknamed Zulu, played 49 Tests and 171 one-day internationals since he made his debut in January 1996. His baseball-style backlift and explosive hitting symbolised the 1999 World Cup and his heroics nearly took South Africa to the final.

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Laxman ton secures India dramatic win



AFP, Colombo

Venkatsai Laxman overcame back spasms to hit an unbeaten 103 as India defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets in the final Test on Saturday to draw the three-match series 1-1.

Sachin Tendulkar chipped in with 54 and Suresh Raina made 41 not out to help India surpass a challenging target of 257 just before tea on the fifth day at the P Sara Oval.

Raina smashed seamer Chanaka Welegedera over mid-on for a six to signal the series-levelling win after Sri Lanka had taken the opening Test by 10 wickets, while the second was drawn.

Laxman, aged 35, and Tendulkar, 37, shared a match-winning partnership of 109 runs for the fifth wicket in what was probably the last Test innings for the two veterans on Sri Lankan soil.

Laxman was on 60 when he developed back spasms and called for a runner in Virender Sehwag after being treated by team physiotherapist Nitin Patel on the field.

The stylish Hyderabad batsman, later named man-of-the-match, followed his 56 in the first innings with his 16th Test

century that was studded with 12 boundaries.

Raina, playing only his second Test, hit four fours and a six during an unbroken stand of 87 for the sixth wicket with



India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar holds a memento he got for playing the most number of Tests (169) during a ceremony after the third Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

Laxman. Laxman's exquisite strokeplay inspired the Indians to ward off the threat of the Sri Lankan spinners exploiting the bounce and turn on a fifth-day wicket.

Off-spinner Suraj Randiv, brought in to replace world bowling record-holder Muttiah Muralitharan, who retired after the first Test, claimed all five Indian wickets to fall.

But Randiv had little support at the other end as sling-arm fast bowler Lasith Malinga went for 0-49 from 12 overs and unorthodox spinner Ajantha Mendis conceded 65 runs in 14 wicketless overs.

Tendulkar, the world's leading run-getter, marked his record 169th Test appearance with a dour half-century during a three-hour vigil at the crease.

Sri Lanka should have got rid of Tendulkar when he was on 18, but Tillakratne Dilshan floored a simple catch at forward short-leg off Randiv.

Tendulkar fell in the fifth over after lunch when he gloved a sweep off Randiv and was taken smartly down the leg-side by wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni said the win answered critics who wrote off the team after the first Test.

"There was a lot said about us when we

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ASIAN GAMES Tito to train footballers

SPORTS REPORTER

Saiful Bari Tito has been named coach of the Bangladesh team for the upcoming 16th Asian Games by the national team management committee of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

The Games will be held in the Chinese city of Guangzhou over November 12-27.

The committee also named Mahbubur Rahman Roxy and Golam Gilani as assistant coaches for the under-23 team's assignment in a meeting at the BFF Bhaban.

The coaches have been asked to pick a preliminary squad of 30 to 35 members for the committee's approval by August 9.

The month-long preparation camp under the guidance of Tito, who was also the coach for the AFC Challenge Cup held in Sri Lanka, will start from August 20 at the BKSP.

"We are going to appoint foreign coach for the national team very soon. We have been working out the terms and conditions with few coaches, mostly from Serbia and Croatia," informed Badal Roy, chairman of the committee after the meeting.

Gay topples Bolt



AFP, Stockholm

World record holder and Olympic champion Usain Bolt crashed to his first defeat in two years on Friday when America's Tyson Gay won their eagerly awaited 100m clash at the Diamond League meeting.

Gay clocked 9.84sec to edge Bolt, who was second in 9.97sec, while Trinidad's Richard Thompson took third in 10.10sec.

"It feels great to beat Usain but deep down inside I know he is not 100 percent," said Gay, the second fastest man in the history of the event.

"I look forward to beating him when he is 100 percent."

Gay, celebrating his first win over the triple Olympic and world champion, insisted that Bolt is still the man to catch.

"Usain knows what his limitations are. His goal this year was to go undefeated, not set world records. He has plenty left in the tank."

Bolt's last defeat came at the same Stockholm track in 2008 when Jamaican compatriot Asafa Powell took victory.

Since that loss, Bolt had enjoyed 14 successive wins, including the last time he clashed with Gay at the world championships in 2009.

Powell, the former world record holder, was also due to take part on Friday but was forced out with a groin injury.

SL name team for tri-series

CRICINFO, Colombo

Sri Lanka have left out left-arm seamer Chanaka Welegedera and batsman Thilina Kandamby for the tri-series, which begins on August 10 in Dambulla. Chamara Silva, who last played in the tri-series also involving India and Zimbabwe in May and June, makes a return, as does fast bowler Dilhara Fernando. Sri Lanka have also picked allrounder Thisara Perera, who was the leading wickettaker in the one-day

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Lucky KP goes on



AFP, Birmingham

Kevin Pietersen rode his luck as he closed in on his first Test century since March last year here on Saturday.

England, when rain forced an early tea on the second day of the second Test, were 191 for three in reply to Pakistan's first innings 72 -- a lead of 191.

Pietersen, who came into this match on the back of 22 innings without a Test hundred, was 78 not out after being dropped three times.

Paul Collingwood was unbeaten on six.

Pietersen, as well as being reprieved by Pakistan's fielders, had another lucky break in a rain-marred morning session.

He was on 41 when, backing away seemingly distracted and believing the ball was dead, he spooned a catch off Mohammad Asif to Pakistan captain Salman Butt at mid-off.

However, it appeared South African umpire Marais Erasmus had in fact called dead ball although Pietersen was leaving himself open to

the possibility of dismissal by playing a shot.

Butt questioned Erasmus, standing in only his third Test, but Pietersen remained not out.

In the 38 balls possible before lunch, England advanced from 112 for two to 125 for two, a lead of 53.

Pietersen, dropped twice on Friday, was still on his overnight score of 36 when he was given yet another reprieve.

He got an inside edge onto his pad of left-arm quick Mohammad Aamer and the ball looped gently to Umar Amin in the gully.

But Amin, perhaps put off by the bowler's lbw appeal, dropped the simple catch -- the seventh chance Pakistan had put down in two Tests.

After lunch, Pietersen completed a 97-ball fifty when he struck Aamer firmly off his pads for his eighth four.

Jonathan Trott, 31 not out overnight, followed him to the landmark with a straight driven boundary off Umar Gul, his seventh four in 105 balls.

But Trott, on 55, fell when medium-pacer Amin, developing something of a reputa-

tion as a 'golden arm', had him well caught low down in the gully by substitute fielder Yasir Hameed.

Pietersen and fellow South Africa-born batsman Trott put on 133 for the third wicket, having come together when England had lost both their openers on 44 on Friday.

Pakistan -- for the second innings in a row -- had been dismissed for their lowest score against England after making just 80 in a mammoth 354-run loss in the first of a four-Test series at Trent Bridge on Sunday.

As was the case in the series opener, Pakistan had no answer to accurate swing

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SPORTS POLL

TODAY'S QUESTION

Do the Tigers need a bowling coach?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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YOU ARE NOT INVINCIBLE: American sprinter Tyson Gay (L) strides ahead of world and Olympic champion Usain Bolt of Jamaica to win the 100m dash in the IAAF Diamond League at the Stockholm Olympic Stadium on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

What to WATCH

STAR Cricket & SuperSport2
England v Pakistan
Second Test, Day Three
Live from 4:00pm

SuperSport3
Chelsea v Man United
The FA Community Shield
Live from 7:30pm