

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 7, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Karlovic hits fastest serve

Big-hitting Croat Ivo Karlovic on Saturday set a new world record with a 251km per hour serve in his country's Davis Cup World Group first round tie against Germany. The previous record of 249.4km per hour was set by American Andy Roddick in a Davis Cup semi final in 2004. The 2.08m Karlovic hit the monster serve in the fourth set of his doubles tie which he and team-mate Ivan Dodig lost 6-3, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 to Germany's Christopher Kas and Philipp Petzschner.



Kuwait look for a repeat

SPORTS REPORTER

The Kuwait U23 side arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning to play their pre-Olympic qualifying away match against Bangladesh in search of another triumph to move into the next round.

Kuwait, who beat Bangladesh 2-0 on home soil, will take on Bangladesh on March 9 at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"We are looking forward to playing a good match against our friends (Bangladesh) and also looking forward for the next round," said Kuwait coach Maher Al Shammari before their practice session at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium under floodlights last night.

Kuwait arrive here three days before the match in a bid to acclimatise to the conditions, and the coach thinks that the conditions would not affect them as the game will be held at five in the evening.

"Condition is all right and I hope our boys will get used to the conditions before the match," said Shammari adding that he was happy the way his charges played against Bangladesh on home soil.

But he seemingly was not happy with Bangladesh's tactics as he claimed Bangladesh played an ultra-defensive game throughout.

"This time I hope Bangladesh will play open and offer attacking football," Shammari said. "We are not looking for a big margin win, rather we are looking to play

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



RAISE LEVELS: Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons (R) explains something to opener Imrul Kayes during practice at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

To get this picture email to pics11@ovi.com



Siddons seeks to move on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong



ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

Bangladesh coach Jamie Siddons admitted that his confidence was 'dented' by the humiliating loss to West Indies last Friday, but was keen on forgetting the setback and moving on.

"The boys are still shell-shocked. They are sad about what happened and the performance we put up. My confidence is a bit dented as well," Siddons, who was speaking at a press conference at Chittagong's Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, replied when asked how they were taking the nine-wicket loss. "Today is another day. We are back on

the park now. It should all be forgotten. We'll move on. I don't expect anybody else to forget it, but we need to forget it and move forward."

The Tigers are in Chittagong for their must-win encounters against England on the 11th and the Netherlands on the 14th.

In the face of stiff criticism and public outcry, Siddons defended his players saying that it was a matter of things going wrong on the day. "The public needs to realise it, and I think they do, that the players were the most devastated, most embarrassed, most upset by the result. They don't go out there to play cricket like that. We are very keen to bounce back.

"It just fell apart on that one day. I don't

want to over-analyse that. That will not get us anywhere. But we need to learn from it, and the players are aware of that. They need to change a few things and stick to the team plans, which they didn't do well in that match, and not even against Ireland. They went away from what has been successful for us."

The coach said that the criticism from newspapers and past players affected each individual differently, and expressed his discontent at the comment of some former players. "We try not to read the paper or listen to what people say. A lot of players are disappointed by the past players. And I am also disappointed with some of the past players that are saying

stuff about me as well."

Asked how the mood in the camp was ahead of their crucial tie against England, Siddons said, "Definitely more determined. And [the West Indies game] also makes us realise where we are at. We need to improve some things, and we can be -- because of our youth and age -- up and down. Don't expect us to be that down, though. We have been playing better cricket for the last 12 months, and that was out of the blue. No one expected that, that's why we are so devastated."

The focus must now shift to the England game and Siddons seemed optimistic. "We have played them [England] recently here.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

BUS STONING WI don't buy Lorgat opinion

AFP, Mohali

West Indies coach Ottis Gibson blasted International Cricket Council (ICC) boss Haroon Lorgat as "ridiculous" on Sunday for attempting to play down the Dhaka bus stoning controversy.

Lorgat insisted that Friday's incident, which saw the West Indies team bus attacked by angry Bangladesh fans after the home team had suffered a humiliating World Cup loss, was minor with just pebbles hurled at the vehicle.

But Gibson told Lorgat that it was a serious breach of security which caused the West Indies team to take cover on the floor of the bus.

The fans thought they were venting their anger at their own side.

"There were stones thrown at our bus. I just want to make it clear first of all and remind Haroon Lorgat of his responsibilities. He can't sit in a hotel room in Chennai and say they were pebbles," said Gibson.

Bangladesh were bowled out for just 58 in the match their lowest one-day total, before losing by nine wickets. The defeat severely dented the home side's hopes of making the quarterfinals.

Fans also attacked Bangladesh captain Shakib Al-Hasan's house.

"What we heard hitting the bus and smashing glass didn't seem to us to be pebbles," added Gibson.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

KP set for op after WC

CRICINFO, undated

Kevin Pietersen will undergo surgery on a hernia following the World Cup and has been ruled out of the Indian Premier League.

Pietersen's injury was confirmed after the team returned from Australia last month and will be managed through the rest of the World Cup.

Pietersen will be out of action for around six weeks which means he won't be able to take up his contract with Deccan Chargers, but is expected to be fit in time for England's first Test of the home season against Sri Lanka, at Cardiff, on May 26.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Sk Jamal edge MSC

SPORTS REPORTER



Grameenphone Bangladesh League 2010

A second-half strike from Zahid Hasan Emily helped Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club edge Mohammedan SC 1-0 in the Grameenphone Bangladesh League at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The Black and Whites though protested the goal, which seemed to have crossed the goalline before goalkeeper Titumir Chowdhury stopped the low drive from Emily, a version that the Mohammedan players disagreed with.

"The referees always blow the whistle against us," claimed Mohammedan coach Shafiqul Islam Manik after the game. "We were victim of bad refereeing today too. He (Referee) could have consulted with the assistant referee but gave the final verdict."

Referee Jalal Uddin ran to the centre after assistant referee Aminul Islam Ripon had

signalled for goal and allowed the goal to stand. Mohammedan players refrained from playing in protest of the decision before eventually returning after 20 minutes to complete the game.

Smarting from a 1-0 defeat to Sheikh Russel KC in the previous match, Mohammedan played some organised football from the beginning and should have taken the lead in the seventh minute. But winger Uwiringiyimana Amani's header was cleared off the line by defender Mohammad Sujon. At the other end, Mohammedan keeper brilliantly foiled an attempt from Emily with his hands at full stretch on the half-hour mark.

Mohammedan threatened again four minutes before the break but again Amani's miscued attempt drifted away to the relief of MN Shakil, who stood under the post in place of injured Aminul Haq.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

'Pressure? Not at all'

AFP, Chennai



ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

South Africa captain Graeme Smith hit back at claims his side had 'choked' again at the World Cup after a dramatic six-run loss to England on Sunday.

Defeat ended the Proteas' unbeaten start to the tournament and raised fresh questions about their nerve in tight games.

Needing just 172 to win, they were cruising at 63 without loss.

But they then lost three wickets for 19 runs and three more in the middle of their innings for no runs with the score on 124.

"That's not predictable at all, is it?" said a sarcastic Smith, when questioned about South Africa's composure.

"Pressure? We've handled ourselves in some tough situations over the last few years, I don't think pressure is our weakness."

Smith has always insisted that his team's fighting credentials were proved beyond doubt in 2008-09 when he led South Africa to their first Test series win in Australia.

Sunday's defeat, completed when Stuart Broad bowled Morne Morkel with 14 balls to spare, revived memories of South Africa's two 1999 World Cup matches against

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

FAIR & LOVELY

MAX Fairness for MAX Impression

MAX Skin Lightening

MAX Spot Reduction

MAX Sun Protection

TODAY'S MATCH

Match	Time	Venue
Kenya v Canada	3:00pm	New Delhi

C

ESPNcricinfo Mobicast

by: Plusmo

ESPNcricinfo Mobicast delivers live scores, ball-by-ball commentary, one-click access to schedules, breaking news and photos of international cricket matches. It also features Podcasts from renowned internationally acclaimed cricket experts.

Download ESPNcricinfo Mobicast from <http://store.ovi.com>

NOKIA
Connecting People

Visit the Nokia Playground at Rifles Square. You can WIN an autographed bat by Tamim Iqbal!

Be The Nokia Match Analyzer

Kenya - Canada

Canada and Kenya will get their only realistic chance to breach the 150-run mark when the World Cup's whipping boys clash in a Group A match at the Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi on Tomorrow. While Kenya have been bundled out for scores of 69, 112 and 142 -- amassing just 323 runs in their three outings -- Canada have fared little better. The North Americans have managed 122, 123 and 138 in their matches against Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Pakistan respectively. Monday's match will not generate much interest for the cricket purists but will mean a lot for both teams, trying to justify their presence at the showpiece event.

Nizam Kazi Babu

ovi

Send your opinion in 100 words on Pakistan - New Zealand match to analysis11@ovi.com. The best analysis will be published.