



Sri Lanka wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene (R) and spinner Rangana Herath are in good spirits as they warm up with a game of touch rugby during practice at Lord's, ahead of today's second Test against England here.

# Waqar laments Afridi retirement

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan cricket coach Waqar Younis said Thursday he was "disappointed" by Shahid Afridi's decision to retire from internationals and played down a reported rift with his former captain.

Afridi quit international cricket on Monday, saying he was dejected after being replaced as one-day captain following a fiery clash with Waqar.

Last month the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) replaced Afridi as captain with Misbah-ul-Haq, following his criticism of Waqar's role in team selection during a recent tour of the West Indies.

"I am disappointed at his decision to retire," Waqar, 40, told reporters on his return from Ireland. "I don't want to make much comments before meeting PCB officials."

When asked about the reported breakdown in his relationship with Afridi -- known as "Boom Boom" for his big-hitting style -- Waqar said he had only heard of the rift through the media.

"There are no personal differences, we all play for Pakistan and I have only come to know about my differences with Afridi through media and will not comment on them until I know what Afridi has said," he said.

The PCB said it has summoned Waqar, who was due to travel to Australia to visit his ailing wife, to discuss the manager's report on the West Indies tour, including details of the reported dispute with Afridi.

## Fantastic

FROM PAGE 16 performance so far.

His 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) last eight win saw the Nadal of old with his spell-binding mixture of destructive, pinpoint accuracy off both wings and impregnable defence from the baseline.

Nadal has a 10-4 record over Murray and has won all three meetings on clay including as recently as the Monte Carlo Masters in April.

Murray has been carrying an ankle injury after hurting himself in the third round against Michael Berrer, but Nadal believes that will not be an issue.

"It is not limiting when you are playing, because you just resist the pain a little bit," said Nadal.

"Playing Andy is always a big challenge, because you know how good he is. He has all the shots. He can defend very well; he can attack very well."

"You have to play at a very high level to beat him. It's not going to be impossible."

Murray charged into the semi-finals for the first time with a 7-6 (7/2), 7-5, 6-2 win over Argentinian veteran Juan Ignacio Chela.

He is just the second British player to reach the last four in Paris in the Open era (since 1968) after Tim Henman did so in 2004.

Murray, who came within two points of defeating Djokovic at the Rome Masters, admits he is surprised to be in the last four, the first time since the 2006 French Open that the top four seeds have made the semi-finals of a Grand Slam.

# Honours even in 'final'

FROM PAGE 16

lashed a left-footer from outside the box past a hesitating Muktijoddha goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee.

However, it was Abahani goalkeeper Zia who copped most of the blame as it was his misjudgement which resulted in the Reds grabbing an equalizer. Coming out of his area to defend a long ball Zia successfully managed to put it out for a throw initially, but he was far too slow getting back to his mark as James Moga and Alamu Bukola combined swiftly to set up Boris who fired home from the edge of the six yard box to level the margin.

The equaliser took the wind out of the Sky Blues sails and Muktijoddha took full control of the match but failed to make the best of their opportunities through a combination of goalkeeper Zia and some poor finishing.

In the end both sides had to be happy with a share of the points.

**TEAMS**  
MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD: Biplob Bhattacharjee, Rajani Kanta Barman (Nasiruddin), Firoz Mahmud Titu, Motiur Rahman Munna, Mithun Chowdhury, Alamu Bukola Olalekan (Alamgir Kabir Rana), Yamin Ahmed Munna, Maruf Ahmed, Dami Emmanuel Paul, Boris Kochikin (Zahed Parvez Chowdhury) and James

Moga.

**ABAHANI:** Ziaur Rahman, Twum Frank, Nazrul Islam, Samad Youssif, Saikat Bhowmik, Yusuf Aminu, M o h a m m a d R o b i n (Shakawat Hossain Rony), Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji (Arup Kumar Baidya), Mamun Mia, Habibur Rahman Sohag (Mehdi Hasan Ujjal) and Awudu Ibrahim.

**Yellow cards:** Rajani, Nasiruddin (Muktijoddha), Aminu, Frank (Abahani) **Referee:** Azad Rahman

## Argentina

FROM PAGE 18

Anichebe was then forced to leave the field before halftime with an injury, with Emmanuel Emenike taking his place.

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# 'Shaq' hangs up giant boots

AFP, Washington

Shaquille O'Neal, a three-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player and four-time champion, announced his retirement Wednesday from professional basketball in a video posted on Twitter.

"We did it, 19 years baby, thank you very much, that's why I'm telling you first, I'm about to retire, love you, talk to you soon," said the 7ft 1in literal giant of the game, who is 39 years old.

Known by fans as "Shaq," O'Neal won three consecutive titles with the Los Angeles Lakers and then a fourth with the Miami Heat in 2004.

He has played only intermittently in recent seasons, in 2009-10 for the Cleveland Cavaliers and 2010-11 for the Boston Celtics.

"I know you heard I just announced I'm retired so I need your help, help me come up with a new nickname," O'Neal said in a second video to his legion of fans posted on Twitter.

## India reach West Indies

PTI, Port Of Spain

A depleted Indian cricket team, sans senior players Sachin Tendulkar and regular captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, arrived here for a limited-overs series against the West Indies, starting Saturday.

Smartly dressed in a tee and trousers, the Indian players landed at around 20.30 Hrs (local time) on Wednesday at the Piarco International Airport here and were received by officials of Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB) and sponsors Digicel.

The Suresh Raina-led Indian side looked tired and exhausted after their long flight from Mumbai via London and Barbados.

Stand-in skipper Raina's eyes were blood-shot for lack of sleep and a few team members looked dishevelled from the exertions of a long, trans-Atlantic flight.

Even though he looked tired and sleepless, Raina exuded confidence that his young team will do whatever it takes to win the lone Twenty game and the five-match ODI series against the Caribbeans.

"It's a young side. The players want to do well for the country and themselves. They are extremely motivated," said Raina after arriving here last evening.

Vice-captain Harbhajan Singh too opined that the starless Indian team would not be short of motivation in the upcoming series, irrespective of their relentless cricket schedule.

# Law looks for Lord's inspiration

AFP, London

Stuart Law faces the sternest challenge of his brief stint as Sri Lanka interim coach as he tries to get the side back on track following their stunning first Test collapse.

The series opener against hosts England seemed destined for a draw when rain washed out the final morning of in Cardiff on Monday.

Yet there was plenty of time for England, with Ashes star James Anderson off the field due to a side injury, to dismiss Sri Lanka for 82 inside 25 overs to complete an innings and 14-run win that left the hosts 1-0 up in this three-match series.

What made a bad collapse all the worse for Sri Lanka is that the strength of their side is a top-order featuring Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar

Sangakkara and Thilan Samaraweera.

Law doesn't have much time to effect a turnaround in the team's fortunes, with the second Test at Lord's starting here on Friday.

But the former Australia batsman hopes playing at 'the home of cricket' will lift his side as it has many a touring team down the years.

Law, previously assistant to compatriot Trevor Bayliss, who ended his stint as Sri Lanka coach to take charge of Australian state side Victoria, made no attempt to disguise his hurt at the tourists' Sophia Gardens slump.

"It was obviously very disappointing but embarrassing as well, to get bowled out in 25 overs with some of the world's best batsmen in our line-up," Law told reporters at Lord's on Wednesday.

"We sat down for a good 40 minutes after the day's play and spoke about different aspects and ways of coming back."

Sri Lanka, on a pitch that had quickened but was not a 'terror track', had no answer either to the new ball bounce and lift of giant England fast bowler Chris Tremlett (four for 40) or the off-spin of Graeme Swann (four for 16).

"It can't be a skills issue because our boys are highly skilled players," said Law.

"But suddenly you lose a few wickets and you're under pressure. It's amazing what pressure can do to you, it makes the mind think wrong decisions."

England, with Anderson ruled out, are set to recall seamer Steven Finn, almost as tall as Tremlett, who has not played Test cricket since being dropped after the second match of the 3-1 Ashes series victory in Australia.

They also have the option

# Law looks for Lord's inspiration

## Eng-SL second Test starts from today

Cricket

AFP, London

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# Strauss vows to keep heat on

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss has vowed his side "will push on" as they look to build on their stunning series-opening win against Sri Lanka when the second Test starts at Lord's here on Friday.

Strauss's men dismissed the tourists for just 82 inside 25 overs to win a rain-marred first Test by an innings and 14 runs in Cardiff on Monday.

Victory at Lord's, the Middlesex opening batsman's home ground, will give England an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

But Strauss told England to be wary of a Sri Lanka side still smarting from the embarrassment of such an unlikely loss.

"We're pretty buoyant after the way we managed to get the victory at the end there in Cardiff but we're also aware that it's right back to square one again here at Lord's," Strauss told Sky Sports at Lord's on Thursday, as he reflected on a third straight innings win after Ashes triumphs in Melbourne and Sydney.

"I don't think any of us want to take our foot off the pedal now."

"We've got to push on and keep challenging ourselves to get better and better. We know that Lord's generally is a good wicket."

"You've got to fight hard for your wickets and it's usually five days of very hard work if you want to win a Test match."

The 34-year-old is anticipating a renewed challenge from Sri Lanka.

"You always expect a team to come out fighting," he said.

"I'm sure they would have been disappointed to be bowled out on that last day and with the quality of players they have they'll want to prove a point or two, so we're expecting a pretty strong fightback from them."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slightly open
- 5 On in years
- 8 Venomous vipers
- 12 Piranha, for one
- 14 Road Runner's noise
- 15 French menu phrase
- 16 Exposed
- 17 "— Gratia Artis" (motto of MGM)
- 18 Very, very tiny
- 20 — -Saxon
- 23 Superdry, as champagne
- 24 Swimming venue
- 25 Bush successor ... and vice versa
- 28 Mess up
- 29 Football coaching legend
- 30 — Moines
- 32 Whodunit
- 34 Lion's share
- 35 Piano array
- 36 Two score
- 37 Dig up
- 40 Help
- 41 Press
- 42 Freeway sign
- 47 File's partner
- 48 Inventor of basketball
- 49 Potato buds
- 50 Hosp. sections
- 51 Location
- DOWN**
- 1 Pump up the volume
- 3 Frizzy hairstyle
- 2 Pickle container
- 3 Blackbird
- 4 Drugstore chain begun in 1902
- 5 Elevator name
- 6 Super-man foe
- 7 Luthor listlessness
- 8 Costello's partner
- 9 Fashion line?
- 10 "Frasier" actress
- 11 Detail, for short
- 13 Frizzy hairstyle
- 19 Albacore, e.g.
- 20 Gorilla
- 21 Standard
- 22 Not for the faint of heart
- 23 Unclear images
- 25 Capital of Wyoming
- 26 33-Down's protection
- 27 Birds' home
- 29 Goblet part
- 31 Pigpen
- 33 Black-and-white kin of weasels
- 34 PC peripherals
- 36 Isn't too tight or too loose
- 37 Ireland
- 38 Inside picture?
- 39 Sharpen
- 40 Line of symmetry
- 43 Listener
- 44 Twelve
- 45 Addams cousin
- 46 Definite article

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**CRYPTOQUIP**

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X SXUQMWSXRR VCW ZPWVCZF

S L W Z M W , C U L Y P U M

W V X W ' U U O C U V J L R W V C Z Q C Z F .

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T