

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 Wagar.

(PCB) replaced Afridi as captain with Misbahul-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,"

Last month the Pakistan Cricket Board

Waqar, 40, told reporters on team's 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

what Afridi has said, "he said. The PCB said it has summoned Wagar, 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.

and will not comment on them until I know

Waqar added that appointing a new captain was not his prerogative.

"It's not in my hand to appoint captain of the team," said a visibly upset Pakistan coach. "PCB chairman (Ijaz Butt) appoints captain so you better ask him why the change was made."

Meanwhile, Pakistan's interior minister Rehman Malik has vowed to persuade the hugely popular Afridi to reconsider his decision.

"I will do whatever I can to resolve this issue, as I am equally a fan of Afridi," Malik tweeted on Thursday.

Malik played a key role in Zulqarnain Haider's return to Pakistan in April this year, after the former wicket-keeper fled the team hotel in Dubai for London following death threats to fix a one-day match. Afridi said his decision to retire was final, as

he would not play under the current PCB, headed by chairman Ijaz Butt, but hinted at a comeback if there was a change in leadership.

The PCB suspended his central contract on Tuesday and revoked all no-objection certificates (NOCs) for the player, meaning Afridi will not be officially permitted to play over-

Afridi, who still holds the record for the fastest one-day hundred, scored off 37-balls against Sri Lanka at Nairobi in 1997, led his side to the semifinals of this year's World Cup.

The burly all-rounder scored 6,695 in 325 one-dayers and took 315 wickets as a legspinner. He has a tally of 1,716 runs and 48 wickets in 27 Tests.

He also holds the record of hitting most sixes in all one-day cricket with 289.

### 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.

you are playing, because you just resist the pain a little bit," said Nadal. "Playing Andy is always a

"It is not limiting when

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 semifinals of a Grand Slam.

# Honours even in 'final'

FROM PAGE 16 lashed a left-footer from outside the box past a hesi-

tating 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 Battacharjee, Rajani Kanta Barman (Nasiruddin), Firoz Mahmud Titu, Motiur Rahman Munna, Mithun Chowdhury, Alamu Bukola Olalekan (Alamgir Kabair Rana), Yamin Ahmed Munna, Maruf Ahmed, Dami Emmanuel Paul, Boris Kochikin (Zahed Parvez Chowdhury) and James

ABAHANI: Ziaur Rahman, Twum Frank, Nazrul Islam, Samad Youssif, Saikat Bhowmik, Yusuf Aminu, Mohammad Robin (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.

Early in the second half, a simple opportunity was wasted by Emenike, but he made amends in the 53rd minute by lifting the ball over the Argentine keeper into the net for Nigeria's fourth goal.

After that the Nigerian side seemed to relax and they decided to string passes together in their own half, a situation the Argentines tried to exploit by throwing

more men forward. Argentina were gifted a consolation goal late on when Mauro Boselli converted a penalty in the eighth minute of stoppage time.

### 'Shaq' hangs up giant boots

AFP, Washington

Shaquille O'Neal, a threetime 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 fivematch 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

### Eng-SL second Test starts from today

Cricket

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

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

of uncapped Surrey paceman Jade Dernbach, who starred for the Lions against Sri Lanka.

If Sri Lanka should never have lost in Cardiff, they now return to a venue where five years ago they defied the odds to achieve an improbable Test draw.

Mahela Jayawardene led the resistance at Lord's in 2006 with a fine century as Sri Lanka, 359 behind on first innings, clung on with nine wickets down second time around. "It's a good thing we've come straight to Lord's, it's a good

inspiration," said Law. "The boys are ready to show they can compete at this level, because if things continue like that it won't be much fun on the rest of this trip."

"We're 1-0 down, but we're not here to lose."

One consolation for a Sri Lanka attack without retired stars Muttiah Muralitharan, Lasith Malinga and Chaminda Vaas as well as Nuwan Pradeep, who has gone home with a cruciate ligament injury, is that seamer Dilhara Fernando is set to return after a knee problem ruled him out in Cardiff.

England, who have now won their last three Tests by an innings, with Alastair Cook and Jonathan Trott piling on the runs, are finding that even when things go against them, such as the Welsh weather or Anderson's injury, they can still come out on top -- the privilege of a successful side.

But both England captain Andrew Strauss and coach Andy Flower are too levelheaded to take victory for granted as they seek to overtake India, their other visitors this season, at the top of the

Test rankings. **SQUADS** 

ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Jonathan Trott, Kevin

Pietersen, Ian Bell, Eoin Morgan, Matt Prior, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Chris Tremlett, Steven Finn, Jade Dernbach

SRI LANKA (from):

Tillakaratne Dilshan (captain), Tharanga Paranavitana, Lahiru Thirimanne, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Dinesh Chandimal, Prasanna Jayawardene, Thisara Perera, Suraj Randiv, Ajantha Mendis, Rangana Herath, Dilhara Fernando, Chanaka Welegedara, Suranga Lakmal, Farveez Maharoof, Kaushal Silva.

## Strauss vows to keep heat on Cricket "We've got to make sure we're better."

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.

34 Lion's

35 Piano

**36** Two

share

array

score

42 Freeway

partner

basketball

48 Inventor

49 Potato

buds

sections

51 Location

50 Hosp.

DOWN

1 Pump

up the

volume

today.

sign

47 File's

37 Dig up

40 Help

41 Press

**ACROSS** 

1 Slightly

open

years

8 Venom-

vipers

12 Piranha,

noise

menu

phrase

16 Exposed

17"- Gratia

(motto of

Artis\*

MGM)

18 Very, very

20 — -Saxon

as cham-

23 Superdry,

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24 Swim-

25 Bush

ming

venue

... and

28 Mess up

29 Football

successor

vice versa

coaching

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30 — Moines

32 Whodunit

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15 French

14 Road

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5 On in

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

2 Pickle

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3 Blackbird

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1902

5 Elevator

name

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partner

9 Fashion

line?

10"Frasier"

actress

11 Detail, for

hairstyle

Gilpin

short

13Frizzy

NOTICE

Due to technical difficulties

we are not able to publish

the answers to the cross-

word published on Tues-

day, May 31st. We apolo-

gise sincerely for the

inconvenience. We are

starting afresh again

-Sports Editor

Costello's

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6 Super-

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Meanwhile, he said England had yet to decide between seamers Steven Finn and Jade Dernbach when it came to taking the place vacated by injured Ashes star James Anderson, even though Finn would be playing on his home ground and Dernbach is uncapped. "We're very excited by both. We haven't seen a lot of Jade but he's been very impres-

sive both for the Lions and when he's been amongst the squad. "And we all know what Steven Finn can do -- he's been a quality performer for us over the

"I think we've got some good strength in depth and whoever gets the final nod will do a good job, I'm sure."

last 12 months.

rankings.

19 Albacore,

e.g.

20 Gorilla

22 Not for

23 Unclear

**26**33-

27 Birds'

home

29 Goblet

part

31 Pigpen

kin of

36 Isn't too

37 Ireland

38 Inside

tight or

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symmetry

39 Sharpen

40 Line of

43 Listener

45 Addams

46 Definite

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cousin

44 Twelve

too loose

33 Black-

**34**PC

the faint

of heart

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25 Capital of

Down's

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peripher-

4 Drugstore 21 Standard

Turning to the batting, Strauss praised Jonathan Trott, whose good form continued with a double ton in Cardiff, while insisting runs were around the corner for Kevin Pietersen who once again fell cheaply to a leftarm spinner. "He's been a real rock for us at number

three -- not just the runs he's scored but the manner in which he scores them," Strauss said of Trott. "It's very low-risk, calms everyone down in

the dressing room and it infuriates opposition players, which is great as well." As for Pietersen, he added: "We all get asked questions throughout our careers

You've got to come up with answers to them. "Kevin's come up with plenty of answers in the past to the challenges he's been thrown

and he'll do so again." If England sweep this series 3-0 they will rise above South Africa and into second place in the International Cricket Council Test

England, who have never been number one, face table-toppers India later in the British summer in a four-Test series.

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ULYYPUM ZMW, C

WVXW'U UOCUVJLR WVCZQCZF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

**CRYPTOQUIP** CJ UPKMPZM OXZWU WP KXQM

SLW