

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 27, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Legends meet

Tennis great Roger Federer and Indian batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar met on the sidelines of the ongoing Wimbledon championships on Saturday and chatted at length in the Royal Box, following Federer's third round win over Argentine David Nalbandian. "Spent an hour with Roger Federer chatting on the balcony of Wimbledon Royal box. What a humble guy! And by the way he knows a lot about cricket!!," Tendulkar posted on his Twitter account. "Today was a special day, played a good match and had the chance to catch up with the great Indian cricket star Sachin Tendulkar," read a caption on the Federer's Facebook.

-INTERNET



TAKING A FRESH OATH: Booters at the national team's camp in BKSP huddle around their new mentor Nikola Ilievski in an oath yesterday, ahead of the double-legged World Cup pre-qualifiers against Pakistan.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ilievski imparts pressing football

SPORTS REPORTER

Football focus shifted from professional league to the world cup pre-qualifiers against Pakistan as all 24 booters practised for the first time under new Macedonian coach Nikola Ilievski at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan in Savar yesterday.

The booters, who looked rather fatigued during the hour-long session due to the seven-month professional football league, said they wanted to keep their fatigue aside when they take on Pakistan, who will arrive in Dhaka today, in the home match on June 29 and then the away match on July 3 in Lahore.

"All the players are tired after playing a long league but we are determined to give our hundred percent in both matches against Pakistan," said striker Zahid Hasan Emily after the practice session.

"We have had discussions among ourselves and everyone is committed to do something good against Pakistan as the advancement to the second round of the world cup pre-qualifiers will be something praiseworthy," said Emily, who captained Bangladesh in their last international assignment in the AFC Challenge Cup in Myanmar.

Midfielder Mamunul Islam, echoing the sentiment of Emily, said the task would be a challenging one for them because they have been given short time to prepare for the matches.

"We are all concentrating on the international commitment and we know there is big difference between club-level football and international-level football. We all are focused to prove ourselves at the international level," said Mamunul.

The national team will have another two days

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MATCH-FIXING INVESTIGATION Maruf, Kala summoned

SPORTS REPORTER

Grameenphone
Bangladesh League 2010

The Bangladesh League Committee summoned Muktiyoddha Sangsad coach Maruful Haque and Rahmatganj MFS football secretary Salauddin Kala for information about the match-fixing allegation regarding the second leg match between Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club and Rahmatganj MFS on June 11.

The League committee is supposed to submit their report to the BFF president this week but the chairman of the league committee, Abdus Salam Murshedy wants to talk to both Maruf and Kala about their knowledge of any wrongdoing in that particular match.

Maruful Haque, after his side's last league match on Saturday, claimed to the media that he had hints of fixing of that match, saying: "A Rahmatganj official (Salahuddin Kala) mistakenly called me during that match and said, 'Score as many as you please now. The foreign defender (Ddumba Michel) who was not heeding to our directions has been taken off.'"

Maruf said he had expected that the committee would make an advertisement to urge people to provide information on match fixing but the committee did not go that way, forcing him to reveal it to the media.

The Muktiyoddha coach's claim can be a source of vital information in the on-going match-fixing investigation undertaken by the League Committee. The committee has quizzed players and officials from both clubs, but it has been learnt that they have not yet found any hard evidence to

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Critical trip for Kamal

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president AHM Mustafa Kamal left the capital yesterday to attend the annual conference of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in Hong Kong where some of the agenda have the potential to shrink the cricketing fortunes of the country.

The BCB boss however left behind a strong message where he vowed to fight till the end for the best interest of the country. But it has hardly appeased the growing discontent among the cricket lovers as well as his colleagues in the board after news broke at home and abroad that (he) by supporting a resolution, which seeks to amend the constitution and end the rotation policy where the ICC presidency is concerned, the Bangladesh has actually signed away the chance of its nominee getting the chance to head the ICC in 2014.

"The board, in principle, agrees on the proposed amendment of ICC Article of Association regarding abolishing the present rotation system for the post of president of the ICC," read a BCB statement yesterday.

"However, the BCB feels that an equal

and fair opportunity should be given to all existing full member countries to avail the privileges of the current rotation system," added the statement.

It also read: "BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal in a letter to ICC President Mr Sharad Pawar on 12 June, 2011 has reiterated the board's view that 'Bangladesh would recommend that the proposed amendment comes into effect only after the completion of the current rotation cycle'."

But this statement added more fuel to a notion bordering on the word 'scandalous' as it establishes the fact that Bangladesh were one of the eight ICC full members who voted yes to a "resolution via circular" while the Pakistan Cricket Board opposed it, and Sri Lanka Cricket abstained.

Although the BCB boss did not give a clear cut answer regarding the move that took place in the last week of May, his colleagues in the board expressed their ignorance about any such decision.

It is also clearly understood now that the initial consent to go with the change was a solo act from the BCB president with board members not consulted on the matter by the decision-maker.

BCB director Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul said that the issue was not discussed.

"As far as I am concerned, it was not discussed. Such a sensitive matter should have been discussed in the board. When it happened in the past during Saber bhai's time as president, we talked about it and gave our opinion," said the BCB director.

Other directors were stunned and Sunday's report also sparked reactions with former BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury describing any such decision as unforgivable.

"There are issues which involve give and take while there are some which are ethical and have no room for compromise. I am still not convinced that this is the decision but if it is, the matter cannot be excused," he said.

The idea of abolishment of the rotation system in electing the ICC president came to the fore following the controversy over John Howard's nominations by the Australia-New Zealand partnership during the last rotation. But it was also learnt that Bangladesh was not 'trusted' to handle the hot seat after its failure to handle a gross violation of ICC's ambush marketing policy during the Bangladesh leg of this year's World Cup, that reportedly upset the commercial partners of the game's governing body, most of whom are from India. International politics is

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জাতীয় SMS ভোটিং লাইন চালু।

সুন্দরবনকে প্রাকৃতিক সপ্তাশ্রয় নির্বাচনে ভোট দিন

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