

Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 28, 2011, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

Newlyweds at Wimbledon

Andy Murray's bid for Wimbledon glory won royal backing here Monday as Prince William and Catherine arrived at Centre Court to watch the Scot's fourth round match with Frenchman Richard Gasquet. The newlyweds took their seats in the royal box to loud applause just moments before fourth seed Murray and Gasquet took to the court on a ferociously hot afternoon in southwest London. William and Kate's visit to Wimbledon was a private affair and not to fulfil any royal duties.



Law for Tigers

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officially confirmed on Monday that former Australian cricketer Stuart Law will be instated as the next head coach of the Tigers.

BCB's media committee chairman Jalal Yunus announced at a hurriedly called press conference yesterday that they had



Full name: Stuart Grant Law

Born: October 18, 1968, Brisbane, Australia.

Teams: Australia, Chennai Superstars, Derbyshire, Essex, Lancashire and Queensland.

Nickname: Lawman; The Judge

PLAYING RECORD						
	M	Runs	HS	Avg	50s	100s
First-class	367	27,080	263	50.52	128	79
Tests	1	54	54*	-	1	0
ODIs	54	1,237	110	26.89	7	1

appointed the 42-year old Australian, who has played one Test and 54 one-day internationals, as the head coach for the next two years starting from July 1.

The most successful captain in Australian domestic cricket
Went past 1,000 runs in every English season from 1999 to 2003

Law, who had served as Sri Lanka's assistant coach under Trevor Bayliss since 2009 and took charge of the team on a temporary basis specifically for the tour of England, will succeed his compatriot Jamie Siddons, whose contract was not renewed after the World Cup.

The official announcement of the appointment of Law as head coach came not before much drama. The board was apparently forced to make the early announcement yesterday after Law himself disclosed it in a leading Bengali daily, Prothom Alo.

It was all but confirmed after board's executive committee meeting on June 4 that Law was to become the new head coach but the board had been dilly-dallying with the announcement as they waited for a final agreement.

It seemed that the board was embarrassed by Law's announcement as there was a

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French star Marion Bartoli roars after beating defending champion American Serena Williams in the fourth round of the Wimbledon Championships at the All England Tennis Club in London yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Campbell to join Academy for a month

SPORTS REPORTER

Alan Campbell will conduct a month-long camp as part of the GP-BCB National Cricket Academy's specialist skills programme from June 29.

The Australian coach will work with batsmen and wicketkeepers of the Academy and also the Bangladesh A team.

A wicketkeeper during his playing days, Alan has worked with New South Wales for two decades and had stints with IPL side Kings XI Punjab.

Campbell has a huge reputation as a high performance coach. He was the assistant coach of the New South Wales team in the mid-1990s and acted in the role of specialist coach with the same team several times.

He will also conduct seminars for leading coaches (in batting and wicketkeeping) as well as how to develop a winning culture.

Media Cup football from today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Cool BSJA Media Cup Football Tournament 2011 will kick-off today at the Handball Stadium.

Twenty-four media houses across the country will take part in the tournament where teams will be divided into eight groups of three teams each for the first phase.

The tournament will be declared officially open today by BOA General Secretary Kutubuddin Ahmed, who will be the chief guest while Bangladesh Handball Association president Nurul Fazal Bulbul will be present as special guest.

The first match will be between Channel I and Independent.

Abahani end on winning note

SPORTS REPORTER

Three-time champions Abahani capped off the fourth edition of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League on a winning note with a 1-0 victory over Brothers Union at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Motafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

The defending champions finished fourth, their worst performance in thirty years, since their fourth-place finish in the then First Division League back in 1982, when Mohammedan took the title ahead of BJMC while Brothers Union ended third.

Before yesterday's match, Abahani were in with a mathematical chance of finishing third, but they needed to win the match by five goals to topple Sheikh Russel. However, a solo strike from Ghanaian hitman Awudu Ibrahim eight minutes from time could only earn them three points. The Ghanaian marksman found the back of the opposition net with a powerful right footer availing a

through pass from his compatriot Yousif Aminu.

Abahani finished equal on 44 points with eventual third-placed Sheikh Russel KC, but had an inferior goal difference to cost them a place.

Brothers Union finished fifth with 30 points ahead of Mohammedan for a superior goal difference.

Chittagong Mohammedan and Chittagong Abahani were earlier relegated from the fourth edition of the professional football league.

FINAL STANDINGS

Teams	Played	Win	Draw	Loss	GD	Points
Sk. Jamal DC	22	15	6	1	30	51 (Champions)
Muktijoddha SKC	22	15	5	2	37	50
Sk. Russel KC	22	13	5	4	19	44
Abahani	22	13	5	4	15	44
Brothers Union	22	8	6	8	1	30
Mohammedan SC	22	8	6	8	0	30
Arambagh KS	22	7	6	9	-1	27
Rahmatganj MFS	22	7	3	12	-19	24
Feni Soccer Club	22	4	9	9	-8	21
Farashganj SC	22	4	7	11	-15	19
Ctg Mohammedan	22	4	5	13	-23	17 (Relegated)



An action from the last match of the Grameenphone Bangladesh League between Abahani and Brothers Union at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium yesterday. Three-time champions Abahani won the match 1-0 to finish fourth while Brothers became fifth.

PHOTO: STAR

Women's field sees upsets

AFP, London



Defending champion Serena Williams, five-time champion Venus Williams and top seed Caroline Wozniacki were sent crashing out of Wimbledon Monday as the women's singles was rocked by a triple upset.

Serena, who has only recently returned from a year-long layoff caused by injury and life-threatening health problems, was stunned 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) by fiery Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli in a pulsating battle on Court One.

Big sister Venus lost 6-2, 6-3 to Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova, who had also defeated the American in the last eight here last year.

Pironkova will face Czech eighth seed Petra Kvitova who skated past Belgian 19th seed Yanina Wickmayer 6-0, 6-2.

And Danish world number one Wozniacki meanwhile will have to wait a while longer for her maiden Grand Slam triumph as she was beaten 1-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 by 24th seeded Slovakian Domini ka Cibulkova.

Although clearly not at

her best, Serena showed trademark resilience in the second set as she saved four match points before Bartoli eventually held her nerve to wrap up victory in 1hr 57 mins.

"Beating Serena here is like a dream come true," added Bartoli, a losing finalist here in 2007. "Of course, it's a great performance. But tomorrow is another day so I have to stay extremely focused and not think too far ahead."

Four-time champion Serena was left to reflect on her first failure to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals since her third round exit in 2005.

"I never came here thinking I would lose. That's my attitude. You know, you win some and you lose some. Today just happened to be the one that slipped under me," Serena said.

Bartoli's reward is a quarter-final against big-serving German wildcard Sabine Lisicki, who advanced to the last eight with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 dismissal of Petra Cetkovska of the Czech Republic.

Lisicki, who accounted for French Open champion Li Na in the second round, again served formidably, booming down eight aces with her fastest serve weighing in at a blistering 123 miles per hour.

Lisicki is now on course for a possible

semi-final showdown with Russian fifth seed Maria Sharapova, who advanced to the quarter-finals after overcoming China's Peng Shuai 6-4, 6-2.

The first set was a closely-fought affair with little between Sharapova and the Chinese number two, but the 2004 Wimbledon champion was able to impose herself much more in the second set against the 20th seed.

"It's great," Sharapova said after wrapping up victory in an hour and 21 minutes. "I'm giving myself an opportunity to go even further so I'm quite happy about that."

"I have to be realistic about the fact that I hadn't gotten past the fourth round in a few years so this a step forward and it's just about taking care of business in the next round."

Sharapova faces Wozniacki's conqueror Cibulkova in the quarter-finals.

In other side of the draw, Austrian world number 80 Tamira Paszek advanced to the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam for the first time when she battled past Ksenia Pervak of Russia, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Paszek faces Belarusian fourth seed Victoria Azarenka in the last eight. Azarenka breezed past Nadia Petrova 6-2, 6-2 in just over an hour.

MATCH-FIXING INVESTIGATION

Maruf, Kala give key information

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh League Committee obtained 'valuable information' in their match-fixing investigation quizzing Muktijoddha Sangsad coach Maruful Haque and Rahmatganj football secretary Salahuddin Kala yesterday.

The committee first quizzed them separately and then had them appear together to defend their comments published in the national dailies in the last two days regarding the much-talked about league match between eventual champions Sheikh Jamal and Rahmatganj.

"We have found valuable information regarding match-fixing allegation but we cannot reveal that at the moment for the greater interest of investigation. The investigation is very sensitive and we are going through it carefully," said league committee chairman Abdus Salam Mursheedy after quizzing them at the BFF House.

"Although we have had some limitations investigating the matter, we will recommend our suggestions to the BFF president in light of the bylaws and we believe the BFF Executive Committee will do something about it," said Mursheedy adding that they would submit the report within this week.

"The only thing Kala Bhai denied was that of saying 'score as many as possible as we have withdrawn our defender (Ddumba Micheal)', otherwise all conversations were similar," said Maruful after coming out from the quizzing room.

Maruf also claimed that his charges in the last three seasons were also indirect victim of match-fixing.

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